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Bright and beautiful updates for spring

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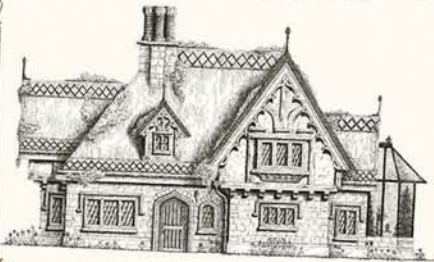
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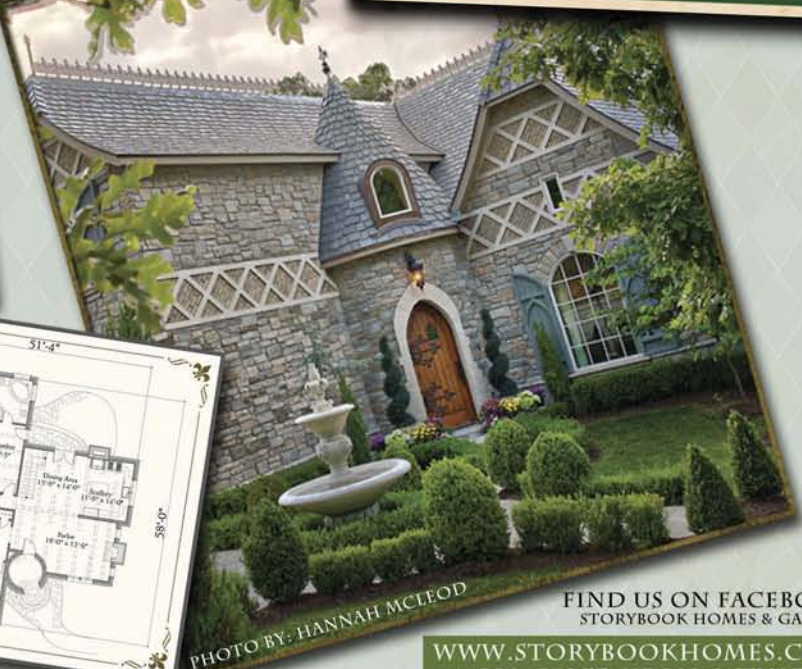


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WE HAVE TWO COVERS! This issue we feature a charming outdoor porch and a vibrant indoor gathering spot to celebrate our favorite elements of indoor/outdoor style. Collect both today!

Photo by **Rachel Whiting/Country Homes & Interiors/Time Inc. UK Content**



Cover photo by **Bill Mathews**



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PURE IMAGINATION



PHOTO BY MARK MENDEZ

I'VE ALWAYS LOVED THE SCENE IN THE movie *Willy Wonka & the Chocolate Factory* where Gene Wilder wanders through his candy-land garden lounging on marshmallow-filled mushrooms, scooping a heap of icing from a cake-like topper, hopping through lollipop flowerbeds and plucking dandelion teacups straight from the ground to take a sip—and then a bite. Sure it's wildly whimsical and pure fun, but it's still my favorite inspiration for gardens and outdoor spaces today. My preferred designs pull from that cozy feeling: intimate, special, a little out of the ordinary. Whether it's the simple luxury of a hammock under a willow tree or something grander like an outdoor bed in a dream garden shed, your backyards, gardens and outdoor rooms should feel like a luxury—a place to escape to.

This issue is packed with must-have inspirations for all things outdoors,

from how to get million-dollar curb appeal no matter your budget, to how to create wonderful outdoor entertaining spots no matter the space. We also explore our favorite flora-related topic: bringing the outdoors in! Because when Mother Nature bestows such fantastic colors, patterns and moods upon the world of design, why not splash them on our walls, sprinkle them on our beds and be surrounded by pretty petals all day long?

Jackie Torres, Editor



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Well Rounded

BY SARAH JANE O'KEEFE

PHOTOGRAPHY AND STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES

PRODUCED BY DIANE SEDO

Serve up classic appeal with a ladylike curve that has captured the hearts of Americans for decades.

PORCELAIN, JADEITE, TINTED OR CLEAR GLASS, vintage or modern reproductions—ball pitchers may not change their shape much, but they certainly change their color. These cute collectibles rock a bulbous shape and tilted spout that take full advantage of the curvy pitchers' design.

The popular pitcher began to capture the hearts of Americans in the 1940s. Thanks to a large number of glass and pottery manufacturers, ball pitchers

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Note the
intricate detail
on the hem of her
dress that echoes the
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Blue Willow Presented in a Striking New Way!

Pretty as a picture, with a stunning gown that pays tribute to Blue Willow—a classic china pattern recognized all over the world—this nostalgic beauty will capture your imagination. Her name is "Rowena," and she's only available through this exclusive offer from The Hamilton Collection.

Master Craftsmen sculpt each detail with skill to showcase this lovely lady's delicate beauty and graceful silhouette. Then, using fine artists' brushes, they lovingly paint her gown in the recognizable cobalt blue color as they replicate prized elements from the beloved Blue Willow motif. Notice the decoration that rims the plate also lines the hem of her dress, while the birds from the pattern grace the front of her gown.

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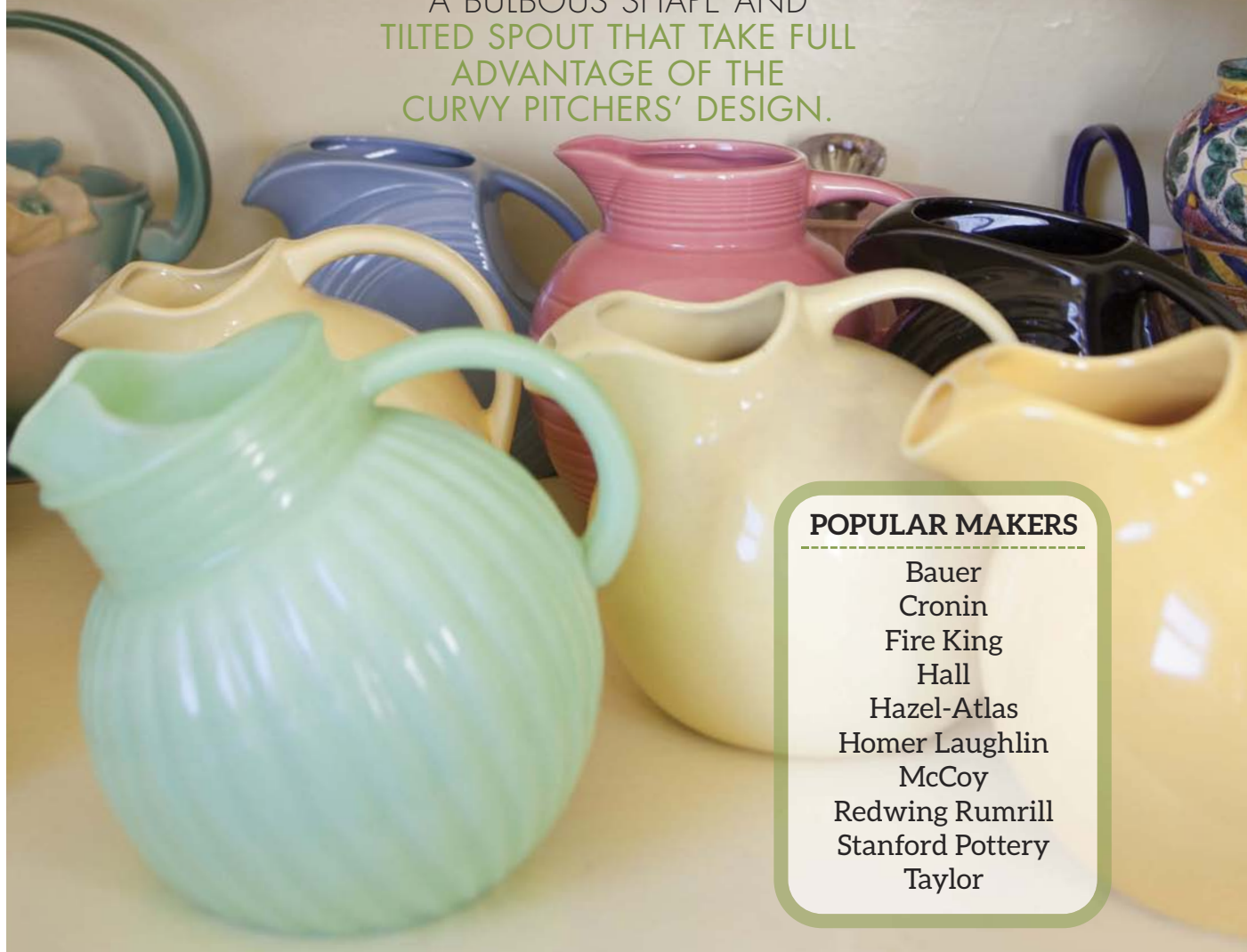
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were widely produced. Since their round shape and unexpected tilt were what consumers wanted, there is little differentiation between the various manufacturers' products. Stamps were not used extensively to label products, so collectors must use a keen eye to spot small variations.

Several years ago, reproduction ball pitchers were released through Gibson and Anchor Hocking. These pitchers were sold at major retailers with only a paper label to mark them. Anchor Hocking reintroduced their Pillar Optic pattern, similar to the jadeite pitcher pictured here, available in jadeite and clear glass.

Truly vintage jadeite pitchers won't have raised seams on the handle. These seams signify the mass-production of modern pieces imported from China. The clear-glass pitchers have a smooth handle and were made in the United States.

Cheery in color and quirky in shape, ball pitchers are fun to collect and display. Their wide mouths make them great as vases, and their rainbow of colors can turn a china hutch into a perfect spring-time spectacle. Pair your pitcher with hydrangea blooms that will mimic its spherical shape, or set it out on top of vintage linens for an idyllic pairing. **CB**

KNOW YOUR MAKER

Telling one pitcher from the other requires a keen eye and careful attention to detail. Here are a few tips to help you know what to look for if you'd like to focus on a particular maker.

HOMER LAUGHLIN—

This company produced ball pitchers through their Harlequin line. These pitchers sport subtle, concentric rings around the bottom of the pitcher to the base.

BAUER—

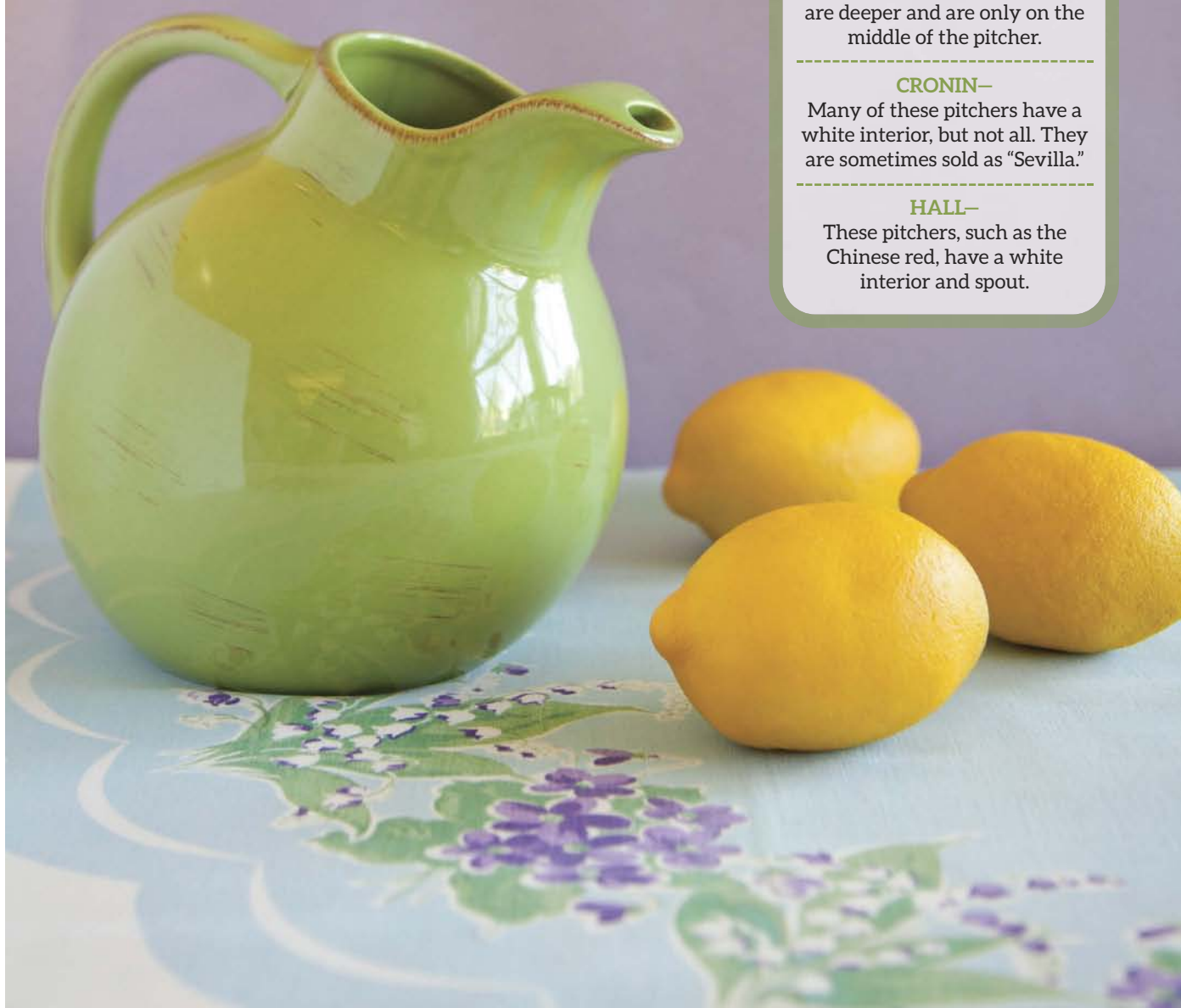
These pitchers also have rings, but their groove and placement is slightly different. These rings are deeper and are only on the middle of the pitcher.

CRONIN—

Many of these pitchers have a white interior, but not all. They are sometimes sold as "Sevilla."

HALL—

These pitchers, such as the Chinese red, have a white interior and spout.



flirting with florals

BY CAITLIN HANSEN
PRODUCED BY JICKIE TORRES

Dress up your décor with fresh spring patterns and bright fabrics.



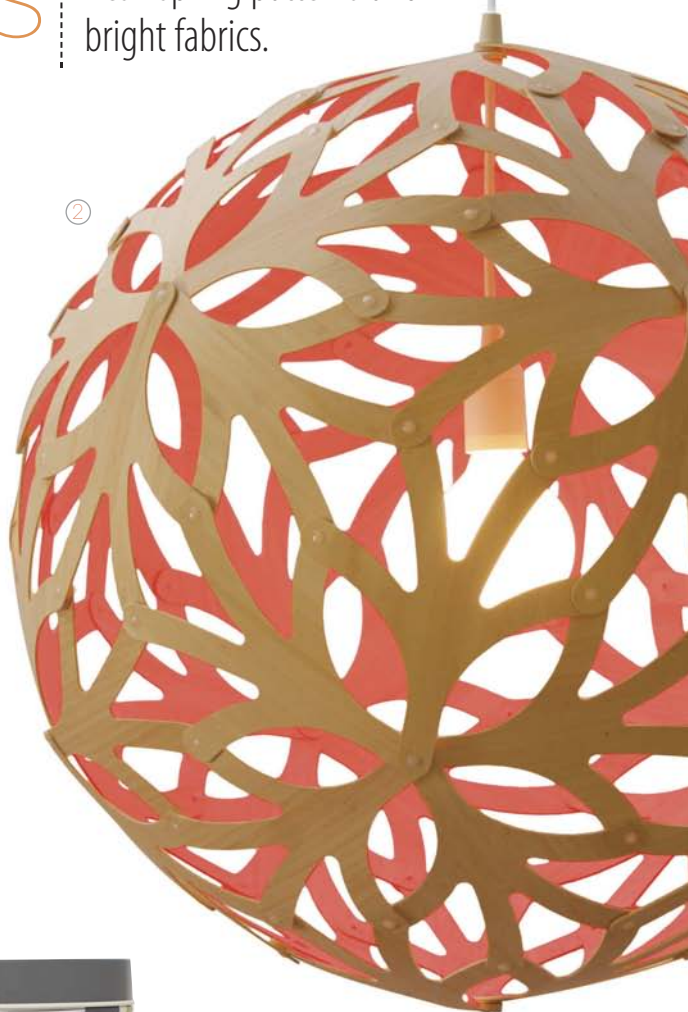
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1. Made from vintage fabric salvaged by its makers, this chair has a unique story and look. Kantha Stitch Butterfly chair, \$198. (503) 477-4146 or connectedgoods.com.

2. This beautifully vibrant bamboo lightshade will bring a splash of color into your home. Paint Floral pendant in lime and salmon, \$450. (866) 428-9289 or ylighting.com.

3. Jump back in time to the 1960s with these funky patterns. The bright colors and outlines are a perfect throwback piece for your kitchen. Pear print assorted canister tins, set of 3, \$30. (212) 775-8340 or orklakiely.com.

4. This flashy flower holder will bathe your flowers in sunshine all the time. Sunflower vase, \$85. (612) 375-7633 or shop.walkerart.org.



②



④



③



5



5. Keep things primitive with this desert-themed, screen-printed kitchen towel. "Succulents" tea towel, \$22. (415) 633-6719 or halfhitchgoods.com.

6



6. Pretty in porcelain: Try this simple, charming plate for your after-dinner confections. Herb dessert plate—Thyme, \$30. suiteonestudio.com.

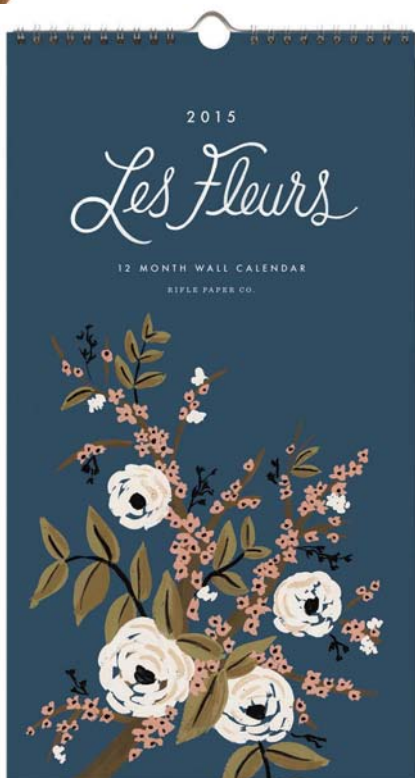
7. The solid colors and soft texture of this pillow will make a bold statement to your guests. Midori-A pillow, \$55. (718) 388-2036 or organicmodernism.com.

8. Keep spring around all year long with this hand-illustrated floral calendar. 2015 Les Fleurs calendar, \$27. (310) 401-0427 or urbanicpaper.com.

7



8



EXTERIOR COLOR COACH

Giving your home a face lift? Your home's exterior color scheme can make or break your curb appeal.

Here are some things to consider when picking the right hues for your home.

PHOTO BY MARK TANNER



[1]

Keep It Earthy

Spice things up (without disturbing the peace) with a deep hue like sand or coffee. You can use trim to bring out certain hues to complement your architecture. Here a deep-red trim around the windows brings out the rusty Spanish tile roof of this Spanish colonial.



[2]

Is Blue for You?

If you're looking to stand out from the fray in the best possible way, go for a rich blue tone. This shade fits a wide range of historical house styles, is great at conjuring up cottage charm and is a wonderful way to explore color while staying traditional. Keep away from tones that are too bright or light if you want the best resale value—colors that are too strong can put off potential buyers.

PHOTO BY MARK TANNER



[3]

Great White

The most popular and widely appealing house color is still white. White has a knack for making your façade seem bigger, it reflects light onto your surrounding yard, and it has the highest resale value according to the National Association of Realtors. Choose a darker color for your trim, shutters and doors for a traditional look and to keep your home from looking washed out.



[4]

If You're Feeling Bold...

Deep, dark tones are a modern trend in house colors, and when they're paired with a cheerful pop of color like this sunny yellow door, there's no mistaking the personality in your home. Keep your trim white to avoid a gloomy look and to add fresh appeal.



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SIGN OF THE TIMES

Looking for a curb-appeal boost? These house numbers are a mix of natural chic and modern edge.

BY MAGGIE ABRATTE


"THERE'S SOMETHING ABOUT THE ART OF IMPERFECTION," HOLLY SAYS. "I LOVE HOW OUR PIECES ARE UNIQUE AND CHANGE OVER TIME."

SPRING'S APPROACH SIGNALS THE START of garden-planning season. The weather begins to warm, and the promise of longer days and spending more time outdoors is intoxicating.

For Holly Hargrove, the designer behind the Etsy shop Urban Mettle, spring is a time to revel in the "imperfectly beautiful." "There's something about the art of imperfection," Holly says. "I love how our pieces are unique and change over time."

Holly, whose background is in interior design, began with a love for combining the looks of organic metal planters and succulents. She decided to collaborate with her father, Hal, an experienced welder, to find a way to make metalwork more accessible.

"We found a way to reduce the size, weight and cost while still making a quality piece," Holly says. "The patina on the metal paired with succulents is one of my favorite combinations."

For Holly, incorporating the outdoors into everyday life is all about simplicity and keeping it natural and easy to maintain. "I love the look of asymmetrical plantings, when there's just a little bit of a succulent hanging over the edge of a planter," Holly says. "And we always use a little gravel in the soil, since drainage is so important." 






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Create a CRAFT CLOSET

Get organized—and look good while doing it—with these tips for a small, stylish workspace.

BY JICKIE TORRES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BENEATHMYHEART.NET,
COURTESY OF TRACI HUTCHERSON



“YOU DON’T NEED ANY SPECIAL TOOLS OR KNOWLEDGE TO GET ORGANIZED,” says Aldred. “Sure, some baskets, bins, racks etc. can help you tidy up your stuff and find homes for formerly homeless items, but you probably have much of what you need already, which can be repurposed into new roles. By reusing what you have, you can corral your clutter without bringing yet more stuff into your space.”

What does being organized mean to you?

If it means finding simple, stylish ways to cut the clutter and maintain your spaces, then Cyndy Aldred's new *Idiot's Guides: Organizing Your Life* will give you some valuable solutions.

Covering every room of the house and filled with easy-to-execute projects and helpful tutorials, the book is a practical, no-fuss take on

what it means to organize your home in a way that's fresh, chic and effective. Here Aldred partners with Traci Hutcherson of the blog *Beneath my Heart*, to show readers how you can turn any small closet into an inspirational crafting space with just four simple ingredients.

Idiot's Guides: Organizing Your Life by Cyndy Aldred, published by Alpha Books, ©2015; idiotsguides.com.



A PEGBOARD.

Pegboard is a fantastic way to organize and store supplies with hooks, baskets and other storage attachments.

BONUS: Don't be afraid to paint your pegboard to capture your own personal style and make a boring space more exciting.



PEGBOARD HOOKS.

You can store just about anything on pegboard hooks. Think creatively and use different sized hooks to hold anything from scissors, tools, buckets and even rods to rolls of ribbon and twine.



BRACKETS AND SHELVES.

In the upper part of your closet, install shelving with brackets secured to the studs for extra strength. Use this shelving to hold books, baskets, craft supplies and other heavier items safely.



LARGE BASKETS.

Large bin-style baskets serve as easy catch-alls for miscellaneous items. You can easily pull out the basket to find what you need, then tuck it back in to avoid lots of clutter.



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Mint, Coral Pink &

Springtime hues inspired by a whimsical notepad will bring a breezy air to your home office or craft space.

BY SARAH JANE O'KEEFE

1— Park book club notepad, \$4.25. Visit etsy.com/shop/quillandfox.

2— Deauville oak chair, \$233. Visit made.com.

3— Spring song chalk-style finish paint, visit oldtownpaints.com to find a retailer.

4— Fiddle leaf fig print, \$25 for 8" x 10". Visit luluandgeorgia.com.

5— Midcentury desk in acorn, \$599. (888) 922-4119 or visit westelm.com.

6— Memo notebook tray, \$24.95. Visit fishseddy.com.

7— Glass storage box cutout, \$29. Visit oscarandeve.co.uk.

8— Mint tape dispenser, \$12. (888) 676-7746 or poppin.com.

9— Theorem lamp, \$375. Visit dam-design.com.

6 —

7 |

8 |

9 —



HELLO, HYDRANGEA!

This cottage-garden classic is the only true must-have trend this season.

BY JICKIE TORRES

PHOTO BY JAMES CANT

With a shape reminiscent of the most beautiful clouds ever to grace a sky, and ethereal colors that are just as dreamy, hydrangeas are a true cottage mainstay. While you may not be able to grow them in your area, you can enjoy cut blooms from your local grocer or flower shop. Here are our favorite ways to enjoy this abundant bloom.

Whether you buy hydrangeas or snip them from your own backyard, always recut the stems at a diagonal under running water to create a new, bigger surface area that encourages water uptake. Two secrets for longer lasting blooms? Dip the ends in hot water for a few seconds to prevent a clogged stem, or dip the cut end into alum powder (find it in the spice aisle of your grocery store) to help keep the stem's pores open.

To revive wilting arrangements, submerge the whole hydrangea completely in cold water for 30 to 45 minutes. You can also recut the stem closer to the bloom to increase water uptake.

For perfect dried hydrangeas, pick them after peak bloom. If you are cutting them from your own garden, they have less moisture and will retain their color and shape better. Then water dry them by leaving them in a cool spot in a vase with water that goes only halfway up the stem. Let the water evaporate slowly, and don't refill it, to allow the hydrangea to desiccate gently.

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What makes your home attractive on the outside is very simple. Include these key ingredients.

Your Recipe For Curb Appeal

PHOTO BY BRET GUM

3

SYMMETRY

Add balance to your home's architecture where you can with pots, topiaries and accents. Psychologically, symmetry creates a sense of calm, order and a feeling of welcome.

4

A GATHERING PLACE

Porch or no porch, most homes have a small space to carve out at least a basic seating area. This will add an element of design to your façade. And a small spot for rest—a porch swing, a pair of chairs or a small bench—adds life to your front yard.

BY JICKIE TORRES
PHOTO BY BRET GUM

1

PAINT ON POINT.

No matter the color, make sure your home's paint job is neat, tidy and up to snuff. Nothing says neglected home like peeling paint and stained walls.

2

TRIM AND TIDY.

Your greenery should all be well maintained. Trim back overgrown hedges and shape your shrubs, and you'll be surprised how it instantly opens up the look of your home.

the goods



◀ **Paper plates and plastic utensils** are a thing of the past with these disposable bamboo plates and sporks, an elegant alternative. Garnish a catered event, bring them on a picnic or pack them in a lunch. Small, round bamboo plates and bamboo sporks. Visit lunabazaar.com for quantity and pricing information.

Garden Gear

These flora-friendly finds will outfit your outdoor rooms with style and luxury.

BY CODY MAURO



▲ **Designed the old-English way**, these rustic shears allow you to trim your garden with precision, while the clean and simple trug will steal glances from all the neighbors. Burgon & Ball garden shears, \$52.95. Handmade Rothers garden trug, \$119. Visit store.kaufmann-mercantile.com.



◀ **Bring a little bit of the coast** to your home with these nautically themed pillows. Fabric is reversible to a contrasting pattern. Cresting Pillow and Drop Anchors Pillow, available in multiple sizes, starting at \$162. Visit coastalhomepillows.com.



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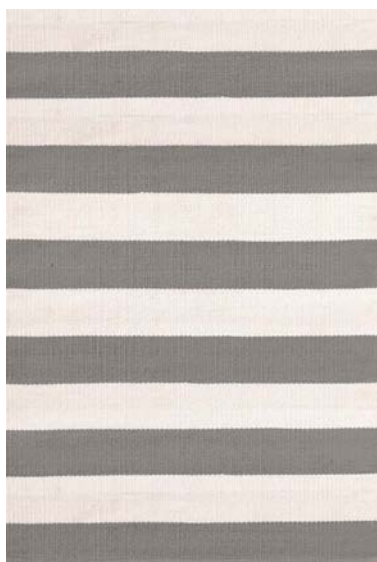
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▲ **Experience a touch of marine life** and evoke the essence of the ocean with this chrome light fixture. Medium marine flush mount, \$588. Visit circlighting.com.



▲ **Talk about durable:** These handcrafted, acid-proof baskets are built to last longer than other metal baskets and come in all kinds of shapes and sizes. Prices start at \$125. Visit canoeonline.net.

▶ **A portable folding chair,** good for any location, can give your home a pop of simple elegance. Teak folding chair, \$265. Visit brookfarmgeneralstore.com.



▲ **Get rugged and carry your tools** in this canvas tote bag. Eena garden tote, \$60. Visit canoeonline.net.

Avoid doormat wear-and-tear and welcome visitors to your home with this coconut fiber, trendy doormat. Danica Studio Bespoke Doormat, \$25. Call (800) 522-0407 or visit lbcmodern.com.



▲ **Make your home pool** feel like a resort, and keep fresh towels at your beck and call with this luxurious towel valet. Collapsible towel valet, \$349. Call (888) 263-9850 or visit frontgate.com.



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◀ **Make your patio pop** with this powder-blue heater that allows you to entertain guests outside in any weather. Concord patio heater, \$299. Visit grandinroad.com.

Sophisticated and chic, Grace furniture set offers the perfect place to host friends and family or relax solo in your own backyard. For prices and dealers, visit homecrest.com.



cottage kitchens

TRADITIONAL WITH A TWIST

BY MARGIE MONIN DOMBROWSKI
PHOTOGRAPHY BY TONY SOLURI

Redefine space in a classic style with a few designer tricks.



Sometimes you have to fake architectural details to make your space work. Designer Lisa Gutow Berman used wood paneling to hide an unsightly structural column in the middle of the space and created another faux column with matching paneling to look like it was all part of an original doorway.



LOOKING FOR SOMETHING earthy and elegant? When this newlywed couple was remodeling their first home together, an 1897 rowhouse in Chicago, Illinois, the kitchen was first on their list of renovations. With a tiny, L-shaped kitchen that left too little room for two to comfortably cook and entertain, they were looking for ways to create an open and inviting space for hosting dinner parties and someday serving a growing family there as well.

After tearing down the formerly nondescript kitchen, interior designer Lisa Gutow Berman worked with the couple not only to transform it into a functional space, but also to add a high-end look with a classic color palette and a few modern touches.

A NEW SHADE OF GRAY

"We wanted it to be light and bright and airy, but not the traditional white kitchen," says Lisa, "so we chose two different shades of gray." The back wall cabinets are a darker shade, while the island is a lighter shade. Combined with a beautiful Calacatta marble countertop, the space takes on a warm elegance.

Floor-to-ceiling subway tile on all of the walls, along with gray grout, opens up the small kitchen space and gives it a French bistro flavor. Before, the cabinets were in an L shape, but relocating them to the back wall and replacing them with cabinets that reached up to the ceiling helped enlarge the space.

Because the homeowners like to cook and entertain, the space was divided with just an island separating the kitchen from the dining area. This way, the couple can cook and chat with guests at the same time.

"An island is always a great place for people to gather," Lisa says, "and now it's so inviting."

Gold accents, from the lighting to the cabinet hardware, pop against the neutral background and add a modern edge.



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MINDING THE DETAILS

With a neutral background, this is the perfect opportunity for some key accessories to pop—and it only takes a few carefully chosen pieces to really make your kitchen shine. Lisa adorned the kitchen with gold and brassy accents, like jewelry pieces, seen in the unique custom lighting fixtures and cabinetry hardware. “They’re so pretty in person—they’re a great detail,” she says. “The brass really pops against the cabinet colors.”

Instead of a pendant over the island, gold flush-mount sconces were used as general lighting in the kitchen. A custom chandelier over the modern dining table and chairs became a dramatic focal

point. “We had the number of buds picked out specifically for the space,” she adds. “They’re timeless materials, but with a little bit of an edge. Those details can add a hint of glamour.”

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 144

Capture a classic look with Farrow & Ball paint colors for your cabinetry, but put a modern spin on it. Two slightly different tones—a darker tone on the cabinetry in the background and a lighter tone on the cabinetry in the foreground—add depth and interest.



STYLE FILE

TYPE OF HOME: c. 1897 Chicago, Illinois rowhouse

BACKGROUND: A young couple wanted to update and transform their kitchen into a modern, functional space that fit in with the home's historic vibe and would also work as a family kitchen in the future.

DESIGN ELEMENTS: Classic finishes and colors with a fresh, modern twist.

DECORATING COLOR SCHEME: Warm, neutral tones of gray and white with gold accents.

INNOVATIVE IDEA: To disguise a plain column in the middle of the space, wood paneling was wrapped around it to make it look like an original architectural detail. A matching false column near the door was added to balance it out.

SAVED HERE, SPLURGED THERE

SAVED

APPLIANCES—If you hide your appliances behind closed cabinet doors, you can get away with buying budget-friendlier appliances rather than showpieces.

TILE—An easy way to save on your remodel is to select a cost-effective tile, but switch it up with an interesting tile color or a contrasting grout color.

ARCHITECTURAL DETAILS—By keeping some of the existing elements, such as a structural beam, and working it into your redesign, you can spare yourself a lot of renovation work.

SPLURGED

CABINETRY—Cabinetry instantly sets the tone in any kitchen. Invest in quality custom cabinets for optimal functionality and unmatched style.

HARDWARE—Consider hardware the "jewelry" of your cabinets. Bring in some bling and personality with these eye-catching accessories.

COUNTERTOPS—Since they take up a fair amount of space, counters are very visible. It makes sense to install a classic, tasteful material that isn't merely a trend and will look great year after year.



PASTEL LIFE

Soothing garden colors and simple vintage furnishings come together in this flea-market-modern take on spring style.

BY AMANDINE BERTHON/GAP INTERIORS
PHOTOGRAPHY BY JULIEN
FERNANDEZ/GAP INTERIORS



"I LOOK AT EACH ROOM
AND THINK, IS THERE
ANYTHING HERE THAT
UPSETS THE EYE?"

EVERYTHING SHOULD FEEL
HARMONIOUS, STARTING
WITH THE COLOR
PALETTE. TO ME, LIGHT
SHADES FEEL MORE
APPEALING TO THE EYE
THAN BRIGHT COLORS
OR VIVID PATTERNS."

Easy Breezy. The bright living room is a sweet harmony of white, pastel tones and wood. Around the '50s coffee table is a large modular sofa in sky-blue fabric (Söderhamn from Ikea). In the background, behind the glass wall, is Emmanuelle's study. In front of the sea-green wall, the dining area is furnished with a table and chairs sourced from antiques shops and a retro-style cabinet to complete the mix-and-match look.

IF AN EXPLOSION OF PETALS AND A RAINBOW of colors aren't quite your look, you can still infuse your home with bright spring style. Inspired by the wide, rolling hills and the wispy cypress trees outside, Emmanuelle's interior takes a figurative approach to garden style


rather than a literal one. "The landscape really appealed to us, even more than the house itself," she says. "It's a peaceful and natural environment ... so we went for something bright and happy that makes us feel like we are on vacation all year!"

A FARMHOUSE STYLE FOUNDATION

The turn-of-the-century farmhouse was in too poor a state to be renovated and raised with an additional floor like Emmanuelle and her husband, Frederic, wanted to do. So the couple decided to start from scratch. They based the new house on the original plans. "We wanted to preserve the spirit of the local architectural style and the typical lines of a farmhouse," Emmanuel says. "We put some elements from the former house back on the new façade, like terra cotta ornaments and wood shutters. The idea was to get a comfortable modern house with the character of an old one."

EMMANUELLE'S NORDIC
AND RETRO FURNITURE
GO PERFECTLY TOGETHER
THANKS TO THEIR
SIMPLE LINES AND
NATURAL MATERIALS.





Endless Spring. To create a sweet harmonious look, the couple made sure the color scheme of the house followed the tones of the surrounding landscape. The wall behind the dining corner is painted a soft sea green (Green Blue from Farrow & Ball).

The big modular sofa (S derhamn from Ikea) is the heart of the living room, where the family loves to be together.

Farm Friendly. A pine table with a white painted top is the epitome of Emmanuelle's modern farmhouse modern look. Various chairs sourced from local antique shops range from rustic to sleek for a curated look. The study behind it gives the home a dreamy greenhouse vibe, thanks to the indoor glass window/partition.



Except for screening and waterproofing, Frederic built the entire 800-square-foot house brick by brick in a year all by himself. "Fred is a real Jack of all trades; he can do pretty much anything—plumbing, electricity, carpentry—and he likes it," Emmanuelle says. Trained as a stylist and model maker, she can sew, embroider, knit and paint. "I have always liked to use my hands and create things, and I was lucky to meet my husband, who shares the same passions. For us, it felt totally natural to build our own house. We are trying to pass this on to our daughters. Doing some block work, painting, sewing—it's always useful to know how to do it yourself!"

|BOTTOM| Sitting Pretty. A vintage Scandinavian bentwood armchair is the centerpiece for a still life of natural elements, from the neutral tones to the collection of wicker baskets hung as wall art.

|BOTTOM RIGHT| Simply Retro. The pure and charming style of the entryway sets the tone of the interior. Above the rattan armchair from Ikea is a wooden coat rack with a touch of modern flair. The vintage magazine rack was found in a charity shop. The chest of drawers was found in a flea market and painted sky blue.



EMOTIONAL DECORATING

Emmanuelle says that your décor is more than what's attractive or on trend; it's about what shapes your day. "Decoration makes your life sweeter and your daily routine lighter," she says. "I look at each room and think is there anything here that upsets the eye? Everything should feel harmonious, starting with the color palette. We like light shades; they feel more appealing to the eye than bright colors or vivid patterns."

COLOR IT IN

The living room is covered in white from floor to ceiling and the paint's velvety finish captures even more light. "For me, white is the home's color; it's sublime. Just like black in a wardrobe," Emmanuelle says.

Colors are applied on the edges to widen the perspective. Before deciding on the right shade, several tests were done at different times of the day; then the wall along the dining area was painted in Farrow & Ball's Green Blue. This sea green goes with the light blue sofa and is also reminiscent of the natural landscape outside. "We wanted to have color continuity between the inside and the outside. All the colors we picked are also found in the natural environment nearby."



Feeling '50s. The checkerboard floor tiles were chosen for their retro style. In contrast, the living room is covered with a luminous pure-white high-gloss painted parquet floor, which makes the whole home feel crisp, fresh and ethereal.



PERFECTLY PERSONAL

The couple has managed to give shape to their décor with unique touches that speak volumes about their personalities. “I like it when the interior reflects the person’s personality. When I am told, ‘That’s totally Manue’, I know that I did well,” Emmanuelle says.

While she has trouble pinpointing her look, a lot of it can be traced to Nordic blogs and Scandinavian magazines. “I found out about these other décor worlds thanks to the Internet, and they felt so close to mine. I finally found objects that I like and met people with similar tastes.”

At local flea markets and thrift shops, she gravitates toward simple silhouettes, organic shapes and tried-and-true country classics rather than any particular era. As a result, she’s got a sleek modern couch, a farm-style breakfast nook, a ‘50s-era kitchen and simple midcentury modern tables and dressers.


Her Nordic and retro furniture go perfectly together, thanks to their simple lines and natural materials. “When we need something for the house, we’d rather wait and find something we really like than buy something new,” she says. “The more years it has lived, the more we like it.” 



Dining In. The kitchen has a retro look with its diner-style kitchen chairs and checkerboard floor tiles. The Formica cabinet, table and chairs add authentic texture too.

[OPPOSITE] Old Meets New. The open-plan dining and living room is a blend of country and city. The long traditional dining table is surrounded by a mix of farmhouse seating and Eames’ shell chairs from Design Within Reach. A metallic light garland adds lofty spring style in a chic way.



A bright, modern dining room with a wooden table, white chairs, and a large vase of pink flowers. The room features large windows with sheer curtains, a hanging plant, and a checkered floor. The text is overlaid on the left side of the image.

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Careful Coloring. The first floor is decorated in the same palette as the ground floor. The natural landscape tones harmonize and blend nicely with white. To create continuity, the parquet floor is painted gray green.





|LEFT| Mirror, Mirror. Emmanuelle put a new twist on the his and hers vanities in the bathroom. One pedestal sink sports a large vintage mirror, while the other dons a collection of antique mirrors she's found at flea markets over the years.

|BOTTOM LEFT| Something Old, Something New. An old midcentury office desk paired with a reproduction shell chair is a play on old and new textures.



Smart Furniture. Emmanuelle says day beds are a great option for kids' rooms. She chose an iron day bed from Ikea for her youngest daughter Lili's room. When Lili gets older, the bed could be repurposed in different rooms as seating or as a guest bed.

"WHEN WE NEED
SOMETHING FOR
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RATHER WAIT AND
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Pink Palace. The floorboards are painted gray and the walls a pale sweet pink (Rose Calamine from Farrow & Ball). The wrought-iron bed from Ikea was originally blue but was spray-painted white to unify the room. The chest of drawers and desk from the '50s were found in a charity shop.



the vintage house





This cozy Kansas cottage
is full of family memories,
and now makes memories
for other families too.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BILL MATTHEWS
STYLING BY GLORIA GALE

Cool Colors. Lauri and Marilyn paired the brown couch with a white quilt for comfort and good looks. The touch of brown provides an accent for the olive and white room.





"WE LIKE TO GO ON ANTIQUING EXCURSIONS. WE TYPICALLY DON'T KNOW WHAT WE'RE LOOKING FOR. OUR EYES CATCH SOMETHING, AND WE KNOW WE HAVE TO HAVE IT IN THE HOUSE."

A HOME THAT HAS MANY MEMORIES IS DIFFICULT TO GIVE UP. When Lauri Meyer's mom, Marilyn, moved out of the cottage where she had lived for 18 years, they wanted to keep the house but had no desire to become landlords for renters. Instead, they used their love of vintage antiques to transform the cottage into a tiny paradise they share with others.

FINDING A PURPOSE

Lauri and her husband, Brian, bought the cottage in 2004 for Marilyn when her husband died. After living there for 18 years, the 83-year-old decided she didn't want to live alone anymore, so she moved in with the Meyers. "We couldn't just use the house for play," Lauri says. "We had to do something with it." Both Marilyn and Lauri love to visit antiques shops, so they decided they would decorate the house with items they acquired and open the house for a sale once per month.

As they filled the house with vintage finds, however, they realized they couldn't sell the pieces. "They just seemed to belong there in the house," Lauri says. So they rethought their business plan. The Vintage House is now an event space for rent. Lauri and Marilyn have hosted weddings, charity events, baby and bridal showers, and even wine tastings and women's retreats.

Minty Fresh. The light mint color of the walls is perfect for a neutral palette. It provides a change from all the white but doesn't interfere with other accent colors.

THE COLLECTION OF VINTAGE PIECES HAS TRANSFORMED THE VINTAGE HOUSE INTO AN ECLECTIC PARADISE.

VINTAGE VIBE

When Marilyn first moved out they removed everything and started the Vintage House from scratch. They didn't set out with a style plan or overall vision—they just shopped. "We like to go on antiquing excursions. We typically don't know what we're looking for. Our eyes catch something, and we know we have to have it in the house." The collection of vintage pieces has transformed the home into an eclectic paradise. "When we show off the house to potential clients, they always say they want to live here," laughs Lauri.

When they shop for vintage pieces, Lauri and Marilyn focus on size, shape and color. "It's great when we can find a piece with the perfect color," Lauri says, but often, color can be flexible. If a piece has the right size and shape but deviates from the color scheme, Lauri works with it. "We'll sand it down and repaint, or sand the corners to make it look more vintage." Especially for wood pieces, it's more important to focus on the size and shape, such as the curves of table legs, the height of cabinets or wall art and the shape of chair and sofa backs. It's also easy to replace the fabric on couches and chairs—just recover or create slipcovers.

PLAY UP THE HISTORY

The vintage vibe of the interior suits the cottage well. The home was built in 1908 and is part of the historic district of Overland Park. William Strang founded the city and wanted to entice his railroad workers to settle down next to the line, so he bought 600 acres of land and sold off individual plots at a low price. The Meyers' cottage is one of the homes Strang's employees built.



Combination Seating. Instead of purchasing a set of dining room chairs, Lauri and Marilyn went with a mix-and-match collection. Yet the look works—all four chairs match the colors and style of the room.



Perfectly Balanced. Even though there are multiple pieces of art on the wall, they don't overwhelm the room. The empty space above the art allows the eye to breathe.



LAURI AND MARILYN DIDN'T SET
OUT WITH A STYLE PLAN OR
OVERALL VISION—THEY
JUST SHOPPED.





Left: Before-and-After Beauty. Lauri fell in love with this blue dresser at an antiques mall and brought it back to the Vintage House. With a little DIY magic, she turned it into a sink, and the piece has become a focal point of the bathroom.

Bottom left: Country Vibe. Sliding barn doors are a great upgrade that adds a country look.



THE GREAT PART ABOUT THE ANTIQUE DÉCOR IS THAT NOTHING HAS TO BE PERMANENT. LAURI AND MARILYN ARE CONSTANTLY TINKERING WITH THE LOOK TO MAKE IMPROVEMENTS AND ADD NEW PIECES.





Heirloom Panache. Marilyn's aunt pieced this quilt in the 1930s but never finished it. Another 50 years went by before Marilyn took up the project. The quilt adds a subtle touch of color and pattern to the clean white kitchen.






The house is a town heirloom, so it's appropriate that Lauri and Marilyn have sprinkled the interior with their own heirlooms. The quilt that hangs on the kitchen wall, for example, belonged to Marilyn's favorite aunt. Scattering personal vintage pieces helps complete the feel of the home. A touch of personal history makes the new vintage pieces look more natural and creates a sense of depth, especially for those who know the history of the pieces.

TINKER AND TWEAK

The great part about the antique décor is that nothing has to be permanent. Lauri and Marilyn are constantly tinkering with the look to make improvements and add new pieces. The one design element that remains constant is the color palette. They decided to go with cool neutrals so clients could bring in their own colors for events. "If a bride came in with pinks and yellows and we had bright red furniture, it would clash. We want the clients to make the space their own."

Lauri's word of advice for taking on a décor project is to find people who will support you. "I wouldn't have been able to do this without my husband's support," she says. As a result, the Meyers can still use the cottage for family gatherings, and Marilyn has seen the fulfilling repurposing of her old home. 

Garden Style. The metal chandelier is a perfect touch, especially for spring parties that may overflow onto the patio. It brings a bit of the inside out, where guests can look out onto the neighborhood.





MAKE YOUR OWN VINTAGE BACKYARD

THE VINTAGE VIBE DOESN'T HAVE TO STAY INDOORS. HERE ARE SOME IDEAS FOR CREATING THE SAME FEEL IN YOUR BACKYARD.

PACKAGING IS EVERYTHING. Think outside the box and find unique ways to display greenery and bursts of color. Use old shelving units for rows of pots, or plant a cluster of flowers in a wheelbarrow. You could even display a planting container on top of a vintage furniture piece.

LIGHT IT UP. Twinkle lights add ambiance to any outdoor space. If you have multiple trees, hang strings of lights between them, or wrap the lights around the trunk and branches. For a finishing touch, hang lights as borders around windows and doors that face the backyard.

CLUSTER, DON'T CLUTTER. There's a fine line between displays that make viewers wish for a camera and wish for a dumpster. Don't overload the yard with vintage pieces. Make sure there's room to breathe between your displays. Focus on subtle, simple pieces with only a few pops of color.

Outdoor Rooms. Lauri and Marilyn have brought the vintage look outside too. But instead of exposing wood furniture to the weather, they chose more durable metal.



SINGULAR STYLE

Make an impact with a monochromatic color palette.

BY MERYL SCHOENBAUM
PHOTOGRAPHY BY BRET GUM
STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES



"I FELT STRONGLY ABOUT KEEPING IT HISTORICALLY ACCURATE, BUT AESTHETICS CAME INTO PLAY. [THE HOMEOWNER] IS A FAN OF MIDCENTURY-MODERN STYLE, SO WE HAD TO BRING IT INTO THE CRAFTSMAN. IT WAS A BIT OF A CHALLENGE, BUT WE MADE IT WORK."

Warm Welcome. The plants on either side of the door are structured, but not overly so, for a more casual look. Brenner chose the concrete planters, but relied on the nursery to select the plants. The designer stayed with the warmth of wood for the front door. The exterior was changed from a pale green to a very dark gray, which looks more sophisticated and grounded.



HOW DO YOU RESPECT THE PERIOD style of your historic home while adding your favorite modern design elements to it? As this project illustrates, there are creative ways you can honor history and just reinvent it a bit.

Matthew C. Brenner of Matthew Craig Interiors was faced with the challenge of incorporating midcentury-modern furnishings into a 1920s Craftsman bungalow. It turned out to be a dream project not only for the homeowner but for the interior designer as well.

Brenner knew he and the owner would work very well together when he spotted an unexpected accessory during his tour of her home. "When I saw the light fixture in the dining room, it clued me into her personality;

"HOW CAN A DESIGNER TAKE A CRAFTSMAN HOME AND PUT MIDCENTURY-MODERN FURNITURE IN IT? I RESPECTED THE ARCHITECTURE; I DIDN'T KNOCK DOWN WALLS."

I knew that she would be open to nontraditional ideas," Brenner explains. The fixture had a round, midcentury-modern aesthetic that was in line with what the designer envisioned for the bungalow, despite its Craftsman architecture.

"I felt strongly about keeping it historically accurate, but aesthetics came into play. [The homeowner] is a fan of midcentury-modern style, so we had to bring it into the Craftsman. It was a bit of a challenge, but we made it work."

Conversation Pieces. The family likes to entertain, so Brenner designed areas where guests could sit and chat. The front room, pictured here, leads to the dining room. Large mirrors break up the wallpaper pattern. Brenner loves going to frame shops to design his own mirrors for clients. A clear light fixture above the Saarinen "Tulip" table and a transparent "Ghost" chair add a feeling of lightness to the small room.







Piano Keys. The focal point of the music room/living room is the piano, which Brenner painted using auto paint, taking it from a natural oak color to a blend of gray, tan and cream.

Flea-Market Finds.
Brenner picked up some inexpensive frames at a flea market and found some playful, fun images for them. To hang them at the proper height, he cuts up plastic bags, measures them to the frames and hangs them on the wall. The family members are avid readers, so he added books in the cabinet, placing them on their sides for a more relaxed look.



EXTERIOR ESSENTIALS

When Brenner arrived at the Seattle, Washington, bungalow, the façade was painted a pale green, and the homeowner was open to a new color. Brenner researched historic palettes and transferred the colors to a modern, contemporary design. “The Craftsman palette comes from the earth, so I picked

a very dark gray, earthy color. It set the tone for the rest of the house,” he says.

In fact, gray became the predominant color throughout the interior, from the wallpaper to the area rugs to the furnishings. Even the living room’s fireplace received a wash of light gray in a color Brenner calls “graiqe” (a mix of gray and beige).

CREATIVE COLOR

What had been considered a design challenge in the beginning became an asset in the end. "The color palette helped us. We kept it monochromatic, so everything fit well together," Brenner says. "One of my favorite parts of the living room/music room is the painted woodwork. I love using a different color on woodwork. It's like adding a punctuation mark to a room. I painted it dark gray (Benjamin Moore's Iron Mountain)."

The designer's most unexpected and creative use of the monochromatic color was his decision to paint the family's piano. With three kids taking piano lessons, the owner wanted to keep the piano in the living room, but the designer was against having it there because its natural oak color didn't fit in with the rest of the room, so he convinced the owner to move it down to the basement. But after some time passed, the owner wanted the piano moved back upstairs because the family also uses it for entertaining.

"I said, 'Ok, but we have to paint it.' I researched how to paint a piano; I called a piano store to find out how to paint one," Brenner says. "When I asked about what kind of paint to use, they told me auto paint. Sherwin-Williams makes the auto paint, which is not sold in stores. I stuck with a monochromatic color that was closest to the wallpaper in the room, a blend of gray, tan and cream. It was a \$6,000 job, but it was worth it."

GARDEN INSPIRED

A traditional theme found in Craftsman homes is the concept of bringing nature indoors. Brenner used nature as his muse by adding accent pieces such as a Saarinen "Tulip" table, a Hans Wegner chair in a shell design and gray floral draperies in the master bedroom. Planters filled with greenery bring the garden ambience to life.

Brenner looks back at the redesign with pride. "I think it achieves what the Craftsman builders had intended: the aesthetics of Craftsman design with a modern edge," he says. **CB**

One-Armed Sofa. Brenner designed the sofa and had it built by a furniture maker. He wanted only one arm because it is next to the front door, and he thought an arm on that side would look too closed off. The powder-blue and yellow pillows add contrast.

Wonders of Wallpaper. The dining room had been painted in pastel colors, but patterned wallpaper brings the room to life.



SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 144



Seeing the Light. When the designer saw the contemporary light fixture in the dining room, it clued him in to the homeowner's personality, and he felt free to suggest different styles for the home. He added wallpaper across the top of the doorframe and had the felted wool rug custom-made with an ombré design.

Master of the House. Brenner let the homeowner make the design decisions in the master bedroom. The furnishings and accessories were her choices, but they fit well with the rest of the rooms. The draperies are similar to the floral wallpaper in the dining room.



"REINTERPRET PERIOD COLORS. INSTEAD OF AVOCADO GREEN, APPLY TODAY'S COLORS TO IT. DON'T BE SO LITERAL AND RIGID WITH WHAT THE ORIGINAL COLOR WAS."



LESS IS MORE

Interior designer Matthew C. Brenner shares his tips for achieving a monochromatic, midcentury-modern style in your home.



Do your research. Study the historic styles and colors of the architectural period. People may wonder how a designer could take a Craftsman home and put midcentury-modern furniture in it. I respected the architecture; I didn't knock down walls. The bones dictate the style. Popular décor elements of the midcentury-modern period included structured furniture and tufted upholstery.

Reinterpret period colors. Instead of avocado green, apply today's colors to it. Don't be so literal and rigid with what the original color was.

Master the monochromatic. There are many ways to add interest to a single-color palette. We mixed several patterns within the gray monochromatic palette. Texture was important as well; everything has a different texture. My trick is to lay the wallpaper and paint chips I'm considering for a room on the floor to see if it all works together.



Modern Craftsman. This collage illustrates many ways you can add modern touches to an older home, in this case a 1920s Craftsman style. From the bold patterns of the area rugs and wallpaper to the colorful accessories on the kitchen counter and planters, you can update your home while being respectful of its history.

Monochromatic Majesty.

The front porch is a vision of one-color perfection. However, Brenner used his signature style of painting the trim around the windows a contrasting color for a greater impact.



For more information, visit matthewcraiginteriors.com.





Corner Table. Brenner used a corner spot on the front porch for another opportunity to have a seating area for guests. With its gorgeous view of the surrounding foliage, it may be the best seat in the house.



NATURAL BEAUTY

This idyllic home was rebuilt in its dream location one room at a time. See how to pull a country cottage together by making the most of a natural landscape, vintage treasures and a bit of decorating ingenuity.

WRITTEN AND STYLED BY CHARLOTTE FREY SVIDÉN
PHOTOGRAPHED BY CARL DAHLSTEDT/LIVING INSIDE



OPPOSITE | Welcome to the Country. Katarina's house was moved from a spotty inland neighborhood out closer to the coast, where she and her family enjoy an outdoorsy lifestyle in this idyllic setting. **CLOCKWISE from TOP LEFT | Simple Dressing.** Katarina inherited the garden furniture from her grandparents. The pieces not only go with her vintage style, but they also add history and nostalgia to the family home. • **Through the Garden Gate.** Katarina chose royal blue and white paint for her gate, to help it pop against the lush background. • **The Dock of the Town.** The local dock is just a short walk from the house, past gardens, reeds and cliffs. Katarina likes to sit down by the pier with her morning coffee while appreciating the view.

KEEPING THIS
ASSEMBLAGE CLEAR,
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MOSTLY WHITE.

KATARINA KEEPS HER
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COLOR SO AS NOT
TO OVERWHELM THE
SMALL HOME WITH
ALL THE COLOR AND
PATTERN FOUND IN
HER VINTAGE WARES.

Eat in Style. Katarina repurposed a wooden daybed—an heirloom from her parents' house—as a bench for the breakfast nook in the kitchen. She had the chairs made by a carpenter in her father's hometown. Bright checked fabrics combine for a country-chic look.



SOMETIMES THE PERFECT HOUSE can have some not-so-perfect conditions. Artist and designer Katarina Wiklund's red cottage full of quaint vintage finds had her smitten from the beginning—it just wasn't in the perfect spot nor was it the perfect size.

The hundred-year-old structure was selling below market because of its location. It wasn't a neighborhood Katarina wanted to call home, so she did what her parents did decades ago when Katarina was just a child: She moved it. "Maybe it sounds strange, but for me it felt natural to move a house because my parents dismantled and moved a house when I was little," she says. "I thought that was how it was done."

The whole house was dismantled, put on a truck and driven down to be closer to the coast. The turn-of-the-century structure was a simple country shack, which had been added onto through the years, enabling the couple to break the home down in parts rather than take on a whole-house move, which is costlier and more complicated. "We had no money. We could not afford to build a house," she says. "If you're handy and think it's fun to do things yourself, it's a good way to get what you want."





A WHOLE-HOME CHECKLIST

When Katarina and her husband had the home rebuilt on its new lot, they kept most of the interior as it was but made some changes in the layout, including pushing the kitchen to the back of the house and enlarging the dining room to turn both spaces into open-plan living. They also rebuilt the second-floor attic-turned-bedroom into a loftier space by adding large windows along the front wall. This required them to reconstruct the eaves, but the result is that the home has a brighter, more welcoming façade.

Katarina also wanted the home to feel as if it had been in the landscape forever, so they were careful to situate the house to take advantage of some old-growth trees. Early on they also planted a few young trees to help fill in the landscape, while keeping the look natural.

"I MADE SURE THAT EACH ROOM HAD A COZY NOOK. I'M A BIG FAN OF CREATING SEATING AREAS THAT ARE STRATEGIC: EITHER THEY INVITE YOU TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF A VIEW OR SIT AND CHAT WITH THE COOK IN THE KITCHEN OR EVEN MAKE THE BEST OF AN AWKWARD AREA BY GIVING IT PURPOSE AS A READING SPOT."

MEADOW-STYLE GARDEN

The plot was prime for the natural landscaping Katarina was looking to uphold, thanks to its sunny location and coastal climate. Her large garden consists of many different kinds of vegetation, from fruit trees, shrubberies and flower beds to vegetable

Original Elements. The turquoise kitchen is the original kitchen of the house. Katarina found new appliances with retro styling to give her a better functioning cooking space without compromising the quaint style.





gardens and meadow-like expanses, which she encourages to overgrow a little, to blur the lines between her tended garden and the wild landscape beyond.

Past the corner with the cute outhouse is a narrow path that leads along the reeds and past a boathouse. Beyond some shrubbery and a couple of small cliffs, you reach the little pier with a spectacular, unobstructed view of the tranquil and sparsely trafficked waters. Katarina often brings her morning coffee down to the pier, which she shares with the other houses in the area. But those hot spring days when it's time for a swim, it is usually the rocks that serve as the bridge between land and the chilly water.

VINTAGE APPEAL

Inside the cottage is where Katarina's eclectic and artistic style shines the most. Her rooms are a vintage gold mine filled with curious ceramics and artifacts, beautiful old books and charming fabrics.

"I always go to the Saturday flea market in the village here," she says. "These days I try to keep it a social thing as it's always fun to look at things. Our small home is pretty filled so I have strict rules on buying more stuff."

To complement the environs, many of her treasures bear a natural motif. Lots of her vintage finds sport floral patterns, and Katarina is drawn to collecting bird figurines and garden accessories that she repurposes inside for her décor.

Keeping this assemblage clear, fresh and uncluttered is a foundation of mostly white—Katarina keeps her walls and furniture free of color so as not to overwhelm the small home with all the color and pattern found in her vintage wares.

Curious Collectibles. The home's shelves are curated with one-of-a-kind finds. Katarina is drawn to birds and creates vignettes around avian accents, but as a former art major, she also enjoys collecting figural sculptures in various styles from all eras.

OPPOSITE | Smart Space. The steep stairs left a large enclave at the front of the house, which Katarina uses as an office nook. She added a simple cupboard beside it to enclose the space and provide storage for clunky supplies and toys.





Jussi Bortling
TILL HAVS



Salvaged Treasure. The wardrobe in the guest room came with the house. Katarina gave it a coat of the same paint she chose for the garden gate. She painted the floors a buttery yellow for a bright, cozy look.



Pattern Perfect. The wallpaper in Fran's bedroom is a screen print that Katarina designed depicting pills, patches and needles as they looked on an old pharmacy bag she found in her family's attic. The white crocheted bedspread was from her grandmother. The turquoise fabric is Katarina's design for Bemz.



Let the Light In. A buttery yellow paint makes the front entryway a cheerful spot. The wallpaper is from Cath Kidston.


Sitting Pretty. The armchair at the other end of the loft comes from Ikea and is slipcovered with a fabric that Katarina designed for Bemz. She painted the old shabby stool to complement the pillows and turn the stool into a special accessory.

ARTISTIC PERSONAL TOUCHES

"I have always been fascinated by interior design as a way to tell stories, often with the help of patterns," Katarina says. "I work as an artist and designer, and this fascination is something that brings those two jobs together."

One of her creations can be found on the wall in the kitchen. "The 'wallpaper' in the kitchen is actually drawings of imaginary maps I made directly on the wall, and the wallpaper in my son's bedroom is a screen-printed wallpaper I designed myself," she says. "The design is taken from vintage pharmacy store bags I remember from my childhood: patches, pills, syringes and more on a gray background." She has also printed the pattern on fabrics and pajamas and on designs for the Swedish company Bemz, which produces alternative covers for Ikea furniture and cushions. The Ikea chair on the upper floor is upholstered in a fabric that Katarina made for Bemz, and the bench cushion by the window is also covered with her design.





ROOM WITH A VIEW. AT ONE CORNER OF THE UPSTAIRS LOFT KATARINA CREATED A SITTING AREA BY THE FLOOR-TO-CEILING WINDOWS OVERLOOKING THE COUNTRYSIDE.

CREATE SPECIAL PLACES

For Katarina, rebuilding the cottage has been all about carving out special places wherever they are needed. While she's done that on a large scale with the home, it was important for her not to forget the smaller details too. "I made sure that each room had a cozy nook. I'm a big fan of creating seating areas that are strategic: either they invite you to take advantage of a view or sit and chat with the cook in the kitchen or even make the best of an awkward area by giving it purpose as a reading spot. I want my home to be a place where you can sit still and just enjoy what's around you." **CB**

SEE RESOURCES, PAGE 144

Flea-Market Entertaining. Katarina found these red schnapps glasses at the flea market. She often uses vintage tableware to add fun style to outdoor occasions.

OPPOSITE | Intimate Gathering. Katarina inherited the garden furniture on the back deck from her grandparents. A container garden is a good choice to soften the deck and add plenty of color. It can also be easily swapped out with the changing seasons.



KATARINA ALSO WANTED THE HOME TO FEEL AS IF IT HAD BEEN IN THE LANDSCAPE FOREVER, SO THEY WERE CAREFUL TO SITUATE THE HOUSE TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF SOME OLD-GROWTH TREES. EARLY ON THEY ALSO PLANTED A FEW YOUNG TREES TO HELP FILL IN THE LANDSCAPE, WHILE KEEPING THE LOOK NATURAL.



THE SECRET

garden

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR
PHOTOGRAPHY BY MARK MENDEZ
STYLING BY JICKIE TORRES

This playful English cottage garden
is a dream-come-true for a
California couple.





W

HEN YOU WANT TO TURN A DREAM INTO REALITY, you still have to work with what you have. Southern California is the land of the palm tree and poppy. But when a client wanted a traditional English garden with lots of green, creeping vines and bright patches of colorful flowers, landscape designer Kathryn Rue was up to the challenge.

A SLIPPERY SLOPE

Her client, Ann Jones, wanted an English cottage garden, but Kathryn had to work within the limits of the space, including the narrow backyard facing a slope. "The face of the slope dominated the view from the



GROUND KEEPING

For the ground cover, Kathryn used *Dichondra* (*Dichondra* genus), a creeping plant with white flowers. But beware—these plants require constant care. “You may have to replant every year along with regular feeding, weeding and watering,” says Kathryn.

house and made the backyard seem very small,” Kathryn says. “We pulled out a portion of the slope to create a raised pathway between the existing patio and slope.” Surrounded by bushy greens, the path feels magical. “It united the entire backyard in a way that also created a sense of depth and space.”

Kathryn wanted to incorporate the slope into the garden, but didn’t want it to become the yard’s main feature. The solution was a retaining wall with rip-rap facing. Rip-rap is a material made from chunks of old concrete. Kathryn tracked down a construction project and was able to take some unneeded old concrete and use it for the wall. “The rip-rap gives the backyard an aged look beyond the actual life of the garden,” Kathryn says. “It also creates the framework of the English garden look.”

The addition of the slope allowed for more planting space. Kathryn added several birch trees (*Betula* genus) to stabilize the hill and filled in the gaps with smaller plants. Now the slope continues the feel of the garden and makes the yard seem larger.

A CHANGING LANDSCAPE

Originally, the south-facing backyard baked all day in the sun. This kind of area is perfect for a garden with lots of color. Most of the bright flowers we think of as English cottage plants—daisies, cosmos, verbenas, zinnias—are annuals that need full sun. However, with the addition of the birch trees on the slope, the garden became shady.

As a result, Kathryn had to be strategic about how she captured color. There were still some lingering sun patches, so she used these for flowers that need sun, such as roses, lavender and salvia. Then she sprinkled other areas with flowers that like some shade, such as foxglove and delphinium. “The highest priority has always been to incorporate as many perennials and annuals as possible,” Kathryn says. “So we selected plants that take part sun and part shade.”



Foxgloves (*Digitalis* genus) and delphinium (*Delphinium* genus) make a great addition to a cottage garden because they add height and color. They love full sun but will also grow with a little shade.

The narrow backyard doesn’t feel claustrophobic with the additional flat ground and raised pathway. Instead, it feels just right.





SHADY LADIES

IS YOUR GARDEN MADE IN THE SHADE? IF YOU'RE FIGHTING FOR SUN AND NEED A FEW BLOOMS THAT WILL THRIVE IN LOW LIGHT, PLANT THESE FIVE FLOWERS IN THE SHADY PARTS OF YOUR GARDEN FOR A POP OF COLOR.

Amethyst flower (Browallia hybridum). These purple beauties are annuals that will grow to be one to two feet tall. They'll thrive best with filtered sunlight.

Begonia (Begonia genus). These flowers come in almost every color imaginable. With their dark green leaves, they do well in the shade and even indoors. They'll bloom all season long.

Dead Nettle (Lamium maculatum). These plants bloom in white, pink and purple. The leaves have fine hairs on them and often have a silver sheen. Place dead nettle in full shade or partial sun and deadhead it regularly.

Flowering maple (Abutilon hybridum). Flowering maple isn't a tree but a shrub that often grows indoors as a houseplant. With delicate orange blossoms, this plant will thrive in filtered sun.

Impatiens (Impatiens genus). This hardy little plants come in a variety of colors, including pink, purple, white, orange and red. They work well as border plants, especially if they find partial shade under larger plants.



DIY POTTING FEATURE

To add extra interest, create a contained feature such as this clever planting arrangement. All you need is a terracotta pot and a slew of small flowers such as pansies or daisies. Bury the bottom portion of the pot in the soil, and plant the flowers to look like they're spilling out.

PLANNING AHEAD

Before jumping into a project, Kathryn takes the time to look around at the potentials and constraints. "This sometimes means an uncomfortable but very necessary discussion regarding the client's budget or space," Kathryn says. When she first approached this project, a mature fig tree dominated the yard. In order to achieve the client's overall goals, the tree had to go. "It was an emotional decision, but then the design possibilities could be realized."

At the end of the day, the cottage garden is about infusing your personality into the space. "Have fun, experiment and add your own personal touches," Kathryn says. "That's what it's all about with this style of design—to have fun in the garden!"





The beautiful feel of the English cottage garden makes it the perfect location for tea parties, luncheons or even a barbeque.



ENGLISH LESSONS

Designers employ European details to give a lush garden traditional charm.

BY HANNAH ROBERTS • PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALEX VERTIKOFF



A

GARDEN GIVES AS MUCH CHARACTER TO THE OUTSIDE OF A HOME AS THE PAINT ON THE WALLS GIVES THE INSIDE. AND WITH AS MANY DIFFERENT GARDEN STYLES AS ARCHITECTURAL STYLES, IT'S IMPORTANT TO CHOOSE YOUR PLANTS SELECTIVELY.

When the team at HartmanBaldwin Design/Build tackled the garden area of the

Pomello residence in Claremont, California, they wanted to complement the traditional English Tudor estate's refined yet inviting feel. The Pomello property underwent a major renovation that included extensive redesign of the main building as well as an addition of a nearly 1700-square-foot gardener's cottage and a 10,000-square-foot garden. The garden was designed to surround the gardener's cottage, which also serves as a guesthouse. As the icing on the cake, an impressive and authentic 300-square-foot greenhouse was shipped over from England and assembled as a garden centerpiece and focal point.

The resulting gardens are a wealth of hidden treasures,



beckoning guests to stroll down the pleasant pathways and discover the decorative antique details throughout. The sound of water cascading gently from small fountains evokes a tranquil ambience that the delicate visual accents and planter-box lighting complete.

"Typically English gardens are far more formal and structured

[than this one]," HartmanBaldwin project architect Tom Trautmann says. "Our design is a more casual take on an English garden that employs the symmetry of a traditional garden, but its geometric properties are less structured, which results in a softer, more informal feel as one walks through it."

Whatever the square footage of your own space, English Tudor

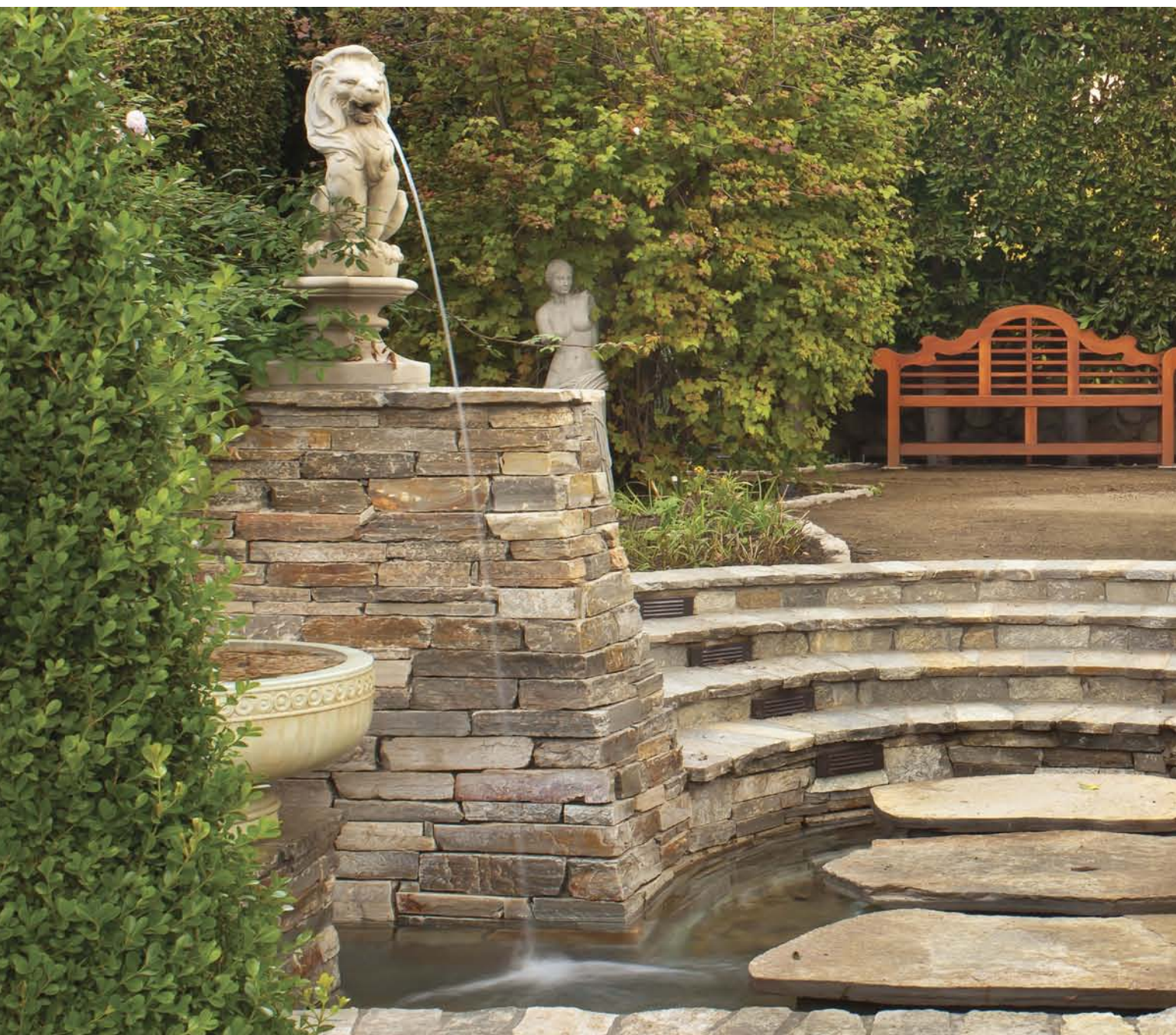


style offers a straightforward way to give your garden a tasteful feel that can be continually refined and elaborated upon as the horticultural muse inspires.

If you're planning to DIY, the HartmanBaldwin designers recommend supplementing your own creativity by researching gardening blogs. Many online communities exist for the purpose

of offering advice, support and even basic templates for setting up your garden. **CB**

| **ABOVE** | The imported English greenhouse adds to the garden's palette of diverse greens, acting as its timeless, understated centerpiece.



"OUR DESIGN IS A MORE CASUAL TAKE ON AN ENGLISH GARDEN THAT EMPLOYS THE SYMMETRY OF A TRADITIONAL GARDEN, BUT ITS GEOMETRIC PROPERTIES ARE LESS STRUCTURED, WHICH RESULTS IN A SOFTER, MORE INFORMAL FEEL AS ONE WALKS THROUGH IT."

| **ABOVE** | **Twin lion fountains** add elegance and serenity while subtly reinforcing the garden's intentional symmetry.

| **RIGHT** | **Graceful topiaries** adorn the edges of the footpaths, framing points of interest.



THE PLANT PRIMER

HartmanBaldwin's design experts offer their best tips for giving your English garden flawless foliage.

GO GREEN. To give your garden a feeling of cohesion, take a cue from the rich, simple landscapes of Jane Austen novels. Set your garden awash in a symphony of greens, and then use a few flowering plants for accent points.

ADD ROMANCE. Nothing defines traditional English charm quite like roses. Select classic colors like pink, white or yellow that will stand out in the greenery without overpowering it.

KNOW BOUNDARIES. English gardens get their distinctive look primarily from their intentional geometry. Shape deep green bushes like boxwood into borders to elegantly define specific areas within your garden.

STAND TALL. Use artful topiaries to anchor specific points and add vertical interest. In addition to lending even more greenery to the space, topiaries function as a simple yet sophisticated style of garden sculpture.

THINK LOCAL. It's important, if possible, to work with a professional who can help guide your planting choices, especially when considering plants that will work well in your climate. Don't be afraid to deviate from classic English shrubbery in favor of plants that will thrive in your environment.





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Get ready to host a delightful tea party or luncheon with this set of four small ceramic plates. They add a touch of fancy to any kitchen. 8.3" diameter.

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CLASSIC CERAMIC PITCHER

Pour elegance into your home with this classic pitcher. Serve drinks to admiring guests or simply place a bouquet in it for springtime freshness.

Measures 8.6x5.8".

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WINE CORK CANDLE SET

Build up the romance with these whimsical wine cork candles. Fit them onto the necks of your empty bottles to create a refined display. Each candle burns up to 4 hours and with wine-like fragrance, this set is indeed a gourmet's delight.

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Each is 1" diameter x 3" high.

Paraffin wax.

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- Set includes six battery operated LED tea lights

LED candle lights are safe for children

Batteries: Each candle light operates on one replaceable 3V lithium battery (six included)

Dimensions: Approx. 2 1/8"W x 3 1/4"H x 2 1/8"D

\$19.95 plus shipping and handling*



TIGER LILY TEALIGHT HOLDER

Warm the night with this brightly colored candleholder. The gentle golden glow from tealights adds a touch of special to any setting. Measures 7" W x 8" D x 14 1/4" H. Candles not included.

\$19.95 plus shipping and handling*



TALL FLORET BLUE CANDLE LANTERN

Enhance the allure of any room with this finely crafted candle lantern. Its vibrant blue from the patterned glass and delicate filigree design give it exotic appeal. Add a candle to cast a spell.

\$16.95 plus shipping and handling*



SCOTT'S ROSES METAL PRINT

An homage to vintage advertising art, this metal wall hanging is a fresh, romantic take on a lost art. A perfect gift for those who love roses and gardens, this flea-market-style art adds color to any space.

10.5" H x 7.5" W

\$15 plus shipping and handling*



COUNTRY-COTTAGE WOODEN COFFEE TABLE

Made from recycled wood with metal accents, the rustic appearance and dual shelving makes this coffee table both beautiful and functional. Measures 55" L x 36" W x 18.5" H.

\$474.95 plus shipping & handling*



HEART BOUQUET CANDLEHOLDER

Twining satin-silver stems form a stylish base of botanical beauty. When its ruby glass heart-shaped cups are lit from within, this vine-design candleholder will glow with romance! 10" W x 5" D x 15" H. Metal with glass accents. Tealight candles not included.

\$9.32 including shipping and handling*



DREAMCATCHER HEART WINDCHIME

Feathers, beads and faux-leather trim add authentic Southwestern styling to this one-of-a-kind windchime.

\$7.18 plus shipping and handling*

*For international destinations, please email us at customerservice@plaidparasol.com or call us toll free at (800) 764-6278

Touch Up Your Trim

This small cottage makes a big impact, thanks to its neat, tidy appearance. Black paint makes the mostly symmetrical trim pop and the white siding feel crisp and modern. If you have a flat façade like this, contrasting trim adds interest. Cute accents like a pair of patterned pillows and Adirondacks framing the entryway create a grander entrance.



BY JICKIE TORRES

Curb Appealing

Make your home a head-turner with these tips for accenting and enhancing the exterior.



Get Growing

Spice up a boring front yard with a vegetable garden! These raised beds add homegrown charm while taking advantage of a great trend of maximizing usable space and minimizing lawns. Keep your beds well-tended and groomed for a shipshape look.



Accessorize!

Bring life to the front of your home by outfitting your porch, doorway or walkways with cozy lifestyle touches. These rockers got a fresh coat of brick-red paint to pop against the historic brick walls. Pillows with a simple but graphic motif that can be seen from afar also add personality. Keep your décor simple and uncluttered for a look that's fresh, not chaotic.



Do Something That Stands Out

Between the yellow door and the off-center paver path, this Craftsman bungalow puts a twist on tradition. Choose a paint color for your door that contrasts with your clapboard paint for a little pop. Then play with your hardscaping for graphic interest. This concrete path draws your eye to the door in a fun way.



Strut Your Stuff

Use these methods to display the objects you love.

BY VICTORIA VAN VLEAR

PHOTOGRAPHY BY ANNA WILLIAMS





W

E ALL HAVE STUFF, AND THE OLDER we get, the more we acquire. The question then becomes how to deal with it all. You don't want beautiful pieces to sit in storage, but your mantel and dining room hutch are already full to bursting. In her new book, *The Stuff of Life*, Hilary Robertson makes suggestions for how to display the treasures you find and collect, whether they're pictures of grandparents, shells you picked up on the beach or thrift-store finds. "For me, making a home is really about the layers of things that are acquired over time," Robertson says. "Things that have stories remind you of places and people and a feeling of discovery. It's also a way of showing the world who you are: the museum of me."

Tinker and Tweak.

No collector is ever finished—there's always something new to discover. As a result, the displays you create can move and change with time. "There will always be another way to do things, another possible configuration," Robertson says. In this bathroom, the collection is adaptable by nature. The plants will grow larger, and visitors will use the soaps, lotions and powders by the bathtub. The flexibility of displays reflects our own movement and growth. "Most arrangements evolve without a plan and will change as time passes," says Robertson. "That's part of their charm." Don't let your displays become stagnant—let them grow with you.

◀ Go with Your Gut.

This is the most artistic approach. Look at the items for their color, shape and size. "You don't need anything except for your eye, your chosen objects and an idea of what you would like to achieve in the aesthetic sense," Robertson says. In this display, the colors sweep in a backward L movement, from the top to the side, as the pinks give way to neutral colors. "The key is to shape and scale, grouping together items of a similar size," Robertson says. Here, the larger pieces attract the eye first, which then goes to the smaller objects on the bottom shelf. Experiment with height, depth and layering to create a perfect exhibit.



The Stuff of Life by Hilary Robertson, published by Ryland Peters & Small, © 2014; rylandpeters.com.

Curate a Collection.

We all have passions and hobbies. "Just about anything can form the basis of a collection," Robertson says. "The more esoteric your ideas, the better." You can collect anything—from natural items to old records or collector dolls. When you have a collection to display, approach the items like an artist who goes to create a gallery show—each object is a piece of the whole. This dresser display promotes nature through images and tactile objects. The live plants will one day be dry, yet the beauty still lingers.





Be Practical.

Most of life consists of normal days. Milestone events don't come often, so it's realistic to show off everyday items. Here, the owner exhibits ordinary kitchen utensils—mugs, bowls, pots and pans. The room doesn't have the same pristine feel as a row of closed cabinets might provide, but it highlights the reality of life, which is more comfortable than forced perfection. One thing to watch out for with this method is too much clutter. "The display of practical things demands a process of ruthless editing and categorizing," Robertson says. Use discretion when you decide what to leave out.



Tell a Story.

This method uses objects to recount information about the collector. "The act of choosing an object and displaying it immediately invests it with significance, however ordinary it might seem," Robertson says. This kitchen shows an interest in the early American frontier. The wood stove, stacked logs and simple kitchen chairs are all elements of a rustic style. "If someone who had never met you came to your home when you were absent, what would he or she discover?" Robertson asks. "Would your possessions tell your story?" Use what you have to share your interests with others.



fabulously floral

Bring the garden party indoors

with these charming ways to add

flower patterns to your décor.

BY JICKIE TORRES

Conservatory Chic

With the trellis wallpaper, the graphic floral pattern on the rug and the bright pops of flowery color all around, this room conjures up the feeling of a romantic atrium. To get this modern look, combine a bold, graphic, grid-like pattern with simple iconic floral shapes.



Make a Statement

Bright, lovely and effervescent, this seating nook is a mix of big, bold elements. The accent chair with its bold print, the vintage brass-and-glass side table and the rug all work together because of a similar color palette and motif as well as compatible sizes.





Wake up your Walls

Vintage style and pretty petals come together in this young girl's room where a '60s-era wall hanging becomes a statement piece in the room. Flea markets and estate sales are a trove of midcentury brass wall art—you can also search eBay, Etsy and Craigslist for these classic décor elements, which come in a wide range of styles all centered around natural motifs.



Mod Mother Nature

Florals certainly have a place in the modern home, too. Here a stylized bloom pattern that recalls the atomic starburst style of the midcentury is paired with a geometric print for a look that feels both contemporary and retro at the same time. Rich colors and textures make the whole scene feel bright and lively.



PHOTO BY RACHEL WHITING/COUNTRY HOMES & INTERIORS/TIME INC. UK CONTENT



PHOTO BY MARK TANNER

Earthy & Elegant

A silvery or muted color palette might be the last thing you'd expect in an outdoor-inspired setting, but this graceful entryway proves that you don't need color to evoke a garden look. Instead, a bold and eye-catching demi-lune table with branches for legs plays off a mix of mercury glass and creamy tole. The flowery candelabras soften the look.

Dark trim against a white wall highlights architectural pieces, bringing them to the forefront rather than letting them recede. In this dining area two graphic black-metal-framed windows become a decorative feature in such a rigorous space. Curvaceous black chairs by Norman Cherner add character and definition around the glossy white table.



SUPER NEUTRALS

BY JICKIE TORRES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY PIA ULIN

Eager to get back to basics? These black-and-white designs prove that monochromatic looks are not only simple and sophisticated; they're also beautifully easy to create.

THERE'S A LOT THAT'S IMPLIED BY BLACK and white interiors. These spaces are chic, sophisticated, modern and bold. But those looking for a color cleanse or interested in a simpler approach to designing a room can rest easy. Touring the pages of Hilary Robertson's new book, *Monochrome Home*, you'll discover that these interiors can also be earthy, cozy, artful and traditional.

"Monochrome interiors are restful, timeless and practical," she writes. "By restricting the color palette, any number of eclectic



elements can exist happily together, inexpensive or simple things look more sophisticated and decorating decisions are made easier. Creativity flourishes within the boundaries of black, white, grey and all the shades in between."

Is this look for you? Can you make it work with your favorite elements? Here's why we like this take on black-and-white beauties.

TONE-ON-TONE LOVES TEXTURE. With this simple scheme, it's important to build texture into your rooms. From fur throws and bubbly glass to rustic wood finishes and carved embellishments, this includes some of our favorite luxe touches.

PATTERNS POP LIKE NO OTHER. The less fussy the color palette, the more graphic elements like patterns in fabric, wallpaper and even tile stand out like the art

pieces they are. And for high-end elements such as these, that's a good return on your investment.

YOUR DESIGN BECOMES POETRY. In a monochromatic space, the scale, texture and details of your accessories and furnishings seem to amplify. With this much impact, have fun choosing interesting elements and unique accents, and creating special vignettes.

TAKE THE GUESSWORK OUT OF DESIGN. "Committing to a monochrome scheme might sound restrictive, but it affords the decorator considerable freedom to experiment with mixing pieces from different decades, adding pattern and layering texture," Robertson writes. "If it's all neutral, it all works together; there's a flexibility that allows you to

Black and white does not mean all dark. Here a cozy office shows how white gives the space an open, modern and well-edited look.



change your arrangements without having to wonder 'Where can I put that chartreuse upholstered chair now that my living room is turquoise?' It might take some discipline at first, but once you start editing, decisions become remarkably simple."

Go monochromatic for the quickest way to create a soothing bedroom. This bedroom is deceptively simple, with creamy gray walls, headboard and carpet. Dressing the bed in white helps enhance the light flooding in from the oversized windows and give the room an airy, open feel.

Use metallics to add an elegant pop of shine in a monochromatic room. These sconces add a touch of gold glamour.



The texture and patina of old wares is made even more poetic by simple monochromatic color schemes.

Here a vintage worktable fits seamlessly into the high-fashion accents of this designer's office. The metallic midcentury-modern chair is juxtaposed with the table's rustic finish, creating dramatic interest.

Dark furnishings speak volumes in a white room. Think about balancing your arrangements to make the most of the overall balance. At one end of this combined living/dining room, a massive wooden dining table with masculine square-backed dining chairs defines the open-plane area. Two intricate midcentury gold pendant lights are hung low over the table. The symmetry of the arrangement echoes the architecture of the room, with its two entrances from the hall.



Monochrome Home by Hilary Robertson, published by Ryland Peters and Small, ©2015; rylandpeters.com.



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Print Your Own PAISLEY

Ready to get into pattern making? Try this colorful approach with a how-to from a color expert.

BY JICKIE TORRES
PHOTOGRAPHY BY RIKKI SNYDER

THERE'S NO MISTAKE ABOUT IT: a colorful home is a happy home. And if you're a DIYer looking to cheer up a few corners in your home, Kristin Nicholas' *Crafting a Colorful Home* has got your solutions and then some. The author and textile designer takes readers on a tour of her New Jersey farmhouse showing the inspiration you might need to take the color leap in your own home and the steps you can take to get there.

"The choice of the colors you use in your home is the most important decision you will make when decorating," Kristin writes. "Color is what you and your guests will see

and feel as you walk through the door. Color is emotional—it can be fun, comforting, enveloping, jarring, safe, daring or calm."

Color and how you choose to add it to your home also makes your décor personal. Kristin offers a multitude of projects for any room, from homemade hanging lanterns to punched-up throw pillows that put a unique spin on your style. Serious crafters will benefit from Kristin's textile background and her tutorial for making your own patterned fabric. Here's a look at our favorite project: how to make a stamped tablecloth.

Make a Paisley-Stamped Tablecloth

BY KRISTIN NICHOLAS

From *Crafting a Colorful Home* by Kristin Nicholas, © 2015 by Kristin Nicholas. Photographs © 2015 by Rikki Snyder. Reprinted by arrangement with Roost Books, an imprint of Shambhala Publications, Inc.; roostbooks.com

The paisley motif is one of my favorites of all time. The organic shape reminds me of a pear or a kidney bean. It decorated many of the print fabrics I made my clothing from when I was a teen. Later I learned that the paisley motif originated in India and Iran and is commonly seen on all kinds of textile designs from these regions. When textiles traveled the Silk Route and came into Europe, many European makers adopted the motif for print, woven and embroidered decoration. The word "paisley" gets its name from the Scottish town where intricately patterned shawls were made on handlooms rigged to weave up to 15 colors at a time. The simple asymmetrical shape combines nicely with other organic motifs such as flowers and leaves, like you see on my stamped tablecloth.

Paint & Fabric

For this project I prefer using latex paint with a fabric medium rather than fabric paint. The latex paint is more opaque than fabric paints, and once you've bought a selection of small sample jars of paint, it's considerably cheaper. For this project I used brown, ultramarine blue, geranium, orange, light turquoise, dark teal, green, and gold. The fabric medium I used was Golden GAC-900.

I used 4 yards of 72"-wide fabric (Dharma Trading's PFD, "prepped for dyeing") to create a tablecloth that measured 120" x 68" when finished. To make a tablecloth to fit your table, you will need fabric that is wider than your table. For the length, you need as many feet as your table is long, plus 2 feet for overhang. Take into consideration shrinkage when purchasing fabric. My fabric shrank 17 percent in length but not much in width.

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Pencil with new eraser
- 3 wine corks
- Rubber band
- $\frac{3}{8}$ " dauber or larger pencil with new eraser (to print decorative dots)
- 100 percent cotton canvas (see Note)
- Sewing machine
- Steam iron
- Dropcloth
- Latex paint in an assortment of colors (see Note)
- Fabric medium to soften dried paint (see Note)
- 1" foam brush
- Deli containers with lids for mixing fabric paint
- Large table for printing
- Fabric and craft scissors



HOW TO DO IT:

PREWASH your fabric and dry it in the dryer.

REMOVE it before it is completely dry so the wrinkles don't set.

HEM THE EDGES. Turn the fabric under $\frac{1}{4}$ " and press, then turn it under again $\frac{1}{2}$ " and press again. Sew with matching-color thread.

PREPARE YOUR STAMPS. Referring to the instructions on "How to Make Stamps for Printing Fabrics and Walls" sidebar. Make stamps using the templates on the right. You'll also be using the eraser end of the pencil and the wine corks for stamping. To make the 3-circle stamp, hold 3 wine corks together and fasten them with a rubber band.

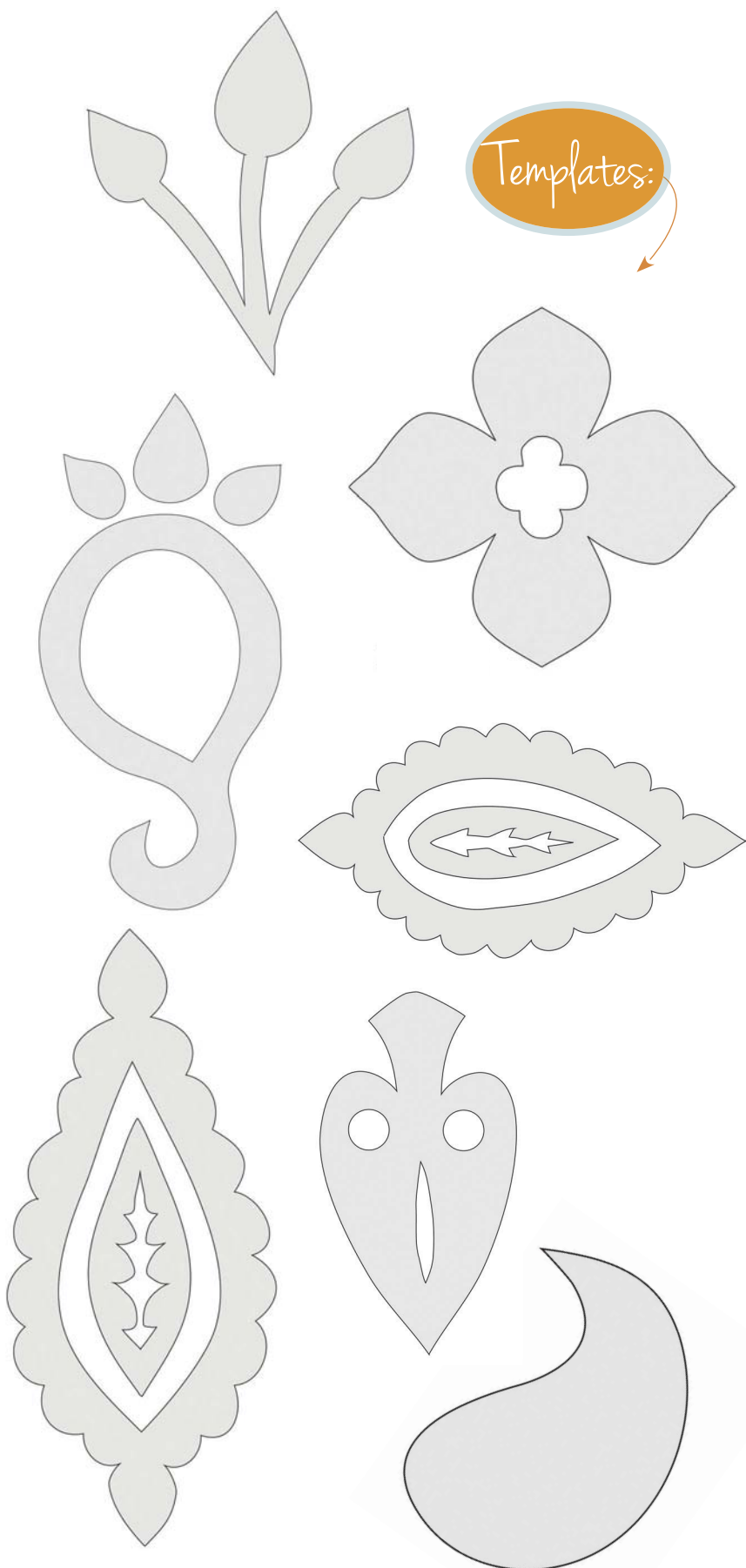
COVER YOUR WORK surface with a dropcloth. Wrinkles in the dropcloth will affect the stamped designs, so be sure to smooth it out.

MIX THE LATEX PAINT with the fabric medium, following the manufacturer's directions. You don't need a lot of paint. If you run out, you can always mix more. I begin by mixing just 1 tablespoon of paint with the recommended amount of fabric medium.

USE THE FOAM BRUSH to apply paint to your stamp. Press the stamp firmly onto the fabric. Try a few sample stamps on some scraps of fabric to get the feeling. Begin to stamp your pattern by working in just one section of the tablecloth. Refer to the photo or create your own pattern. When changing colors, wash the stamp with water to remove previous color. As you begin stamping and mixing the different colors and stamps, your pattern will build with each motif added. If you're creating your own pattern and you want your tablecloth to be symmetrical at either end, print one end first. Then print the opposite end matching the motifs and colors in placement. To make it easier, take a photo of the first end, print the photo; then duplicate the design on the other end of the fabric. Work the center section last, filling in the middle area with an interesting pattern, keeping in mind that you may want a center focus for the design. Let each section dry overnight before moving onto the next section of the cloth. My tablecloth took parts of 3 days—one day for each end and a third day for the middle section.

HEAT-SET THE PAINT on the tablecloth, following the recommendations of the fabric medium manufacturer.

Templates:





How to make Stamps for Printing Fabrics and Walls

WHAT YOU'LL NEED:

- Templates on page 136
- Kids' fun foam with adhesive backing for making stamps
- 1"-thick foam building insulation (often called gray or blue board)
- Acrylic see-through stamp mounts (optional)
- Scissors
- Tape
- Utility knife

HOW TO DO IT:

ENLARGE THE TEMPLATES as given or draw your own motif. Cut out the paper template. Using tape, attach it to a piece of fun foam with adhesive backing. Cut the motif out of the fun foam.

REMOVE THE ADHESIVE backing paper from the foam and push firmly to stick the foam template to your foam insulation or acrylic mount.

FOR USES WHEN exact pattern registration is not necessary, use the builders' foam insulation for your mount. To trim the insulation board close to the stamping motif, use a sharp utility knife and make a shallow cut around the motif. Gently snap the foam and it will break along the cut.

WHEN YOU NEED TO SEE where you are stamping, as for a complex floral design, mount your foam stamp on an acrylic see-through mount. You can have these made at a glass supply store or purchase them online. In a pinch, a clear CD jewel case will work too.

read a room

Serving Up

Creating the perfect vintage kitchen is about picking the right flea-market finds.

Nostalgia

BY JICKIE TORRES

CABINETS, HARDWARE, COUNTERS—check. If you're ready to dig into the fun stuff when it comes to kitchen design—the accents and accessories—and you're looking to create a vintage vibe, we've got the recipe for you. In *Kitchenalia*, author Vinny Lee explores all the furnishings and fittings that capture the essence of the vintage kitchen. Here are our favorite ingredients.

Reinvent Your Storage

In a vintage-style kitchen, your storage units become your statement pieces. Skip the traditional cabinets, and carve out space for vintage and antique hutches, armoires and bakers. While this flea-market find is a big-ticket purchase, it makes a big bang for the buck in your vintage-style space.

PHOTO © LIVING4MEDIA / BINE BELLMANN



PHOTO © LIVING4MEDIA / JOHNÉR

Softly Spoken

Don't overlook how linens and other soft furnishings can create vintage impact in your kitchen. Here a simple nautical stripe café curtain hung on a tension rod mounted under the counter creates hidden storage and eye-catching style. A collection of vintage lanterns hung on the wall brings home the vintage-seaside look and ties all the colors together.

Kitchenalia by Vinny Lee,
published by Jacqui Small LLP.
Visit qbookshop.com.

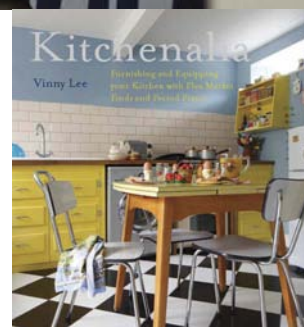




PHOTO BY MATTHEW WILLIAMS / PITTSBURY HOUSE / TAVERNEAGENCY.COM

Use Your Walls

From the unique midcentury-styled spice rack to the vintage tin-signage-turned-art, this small kitchen nook gets a large dose of style. Use flea-market art to make a big statement on your walls and influence the whole look of the room.



PHOTO © LIVING4MEDIA / LARS RANER

Freestanding **Style**

There's something about freestanding storage, shelving and furnishings that imbues a room with a collected feel. Use baker's racks, rolling carts and open shelving to inspire personalized décor that looks like it's grown with time—a hallmark of vintage style.



Dreamy in **Cream**

Walls, floors and furnishings all painted in off-white recall the simple charm of an old farmhouse kitchen. For this no-fuss look, keep your wood finishes light and bright, and choose a light monochromatic scheme for your décor.

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COTTAGE KITCHENS

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Custom cabinets and dining table: Lagomorph Design, (773) 218-7956 or lagomorphdesign.com.

Back wall cabinet in Hardwick White No. 5 and island cabinet in Shaded White no. 201: Farrow & Ball, (888) 511-or 1121 or us.farrow-ball.com.

Faucet: Rohl, visit rohl.com.

Backsplash tile: Ann Sacks, visit annsacks.com.

Kitchen flush-mount pendant lights: Circa Lighting, (877) 762-2323 or circalighting.com.

Hola dining chairs: Cassina, visit cassina.com.

Seed Cloud dining chandelier: Ochre, visit ochre.net.



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PASTEL LIFE

Page 38

Fifties coffee tables, retro cabinet, midcentury tableware: Red Edition, visit rededition.com.

Cowhide, lampshades, lamps, sofabed: Ikea, visit ikea.com.

Linen cushions: Merci, visit merci-merci.com.

Eames shell chair: Design Within Reach, visit dwr.com.

Wooden coat rack: Moose on the Loose, visit moobshop.com.

Rattan chair, wooden coat rack: Room 1164, visit room1164.com.

Lighting garland: Habitat, visit habitat.co.uk.

Garland of paper lanterns: Le Lampion, visit sous-le-lampion.com.

Bed linens: April Shower, visit frenchblossom.com.



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THE VINTAGE HOUSE

Page 52

For more on event rentals at The Vintage House in Overland Park, Kansas, (913) 963-2985 or vintagehouse7612.com.

Vintage collectibles and accessories: Raised in Cotton, (816) 318-9009 or raisedincotton.biz. River Market Antique Mall, (816) 221-0220 or rivermarketantiquemall.com. Greenwood Mercantile, (816) 537-7033 or thegreenwoodmercantile.com.

SINGULAR STYLE

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Exterior paint: **Body:** Iron Mountain; **trim:** Galveston Grey; **accent color:** Onyx, visit benjaminmoore.com.

Exterior paint trim and dining-room paint trim: Feather Gray; **ceilings:** same color, cut by $\frac{3}{4}$. Pratt & Lambert, visit prattandlambert.com.

Sitting-area/piano-room paint trim: Steel Wool, visit prattandlambert.com.

Living-room sofa, front-room banquette: custom. Visit matthewcraiginteriors.com.

Tulip table by Eero Saarinen; vintage leather chair by Hans Wegner: Inform, informseattle.com.

Coffee-table bowl: Fusionz, visit fusionz.com.

Front-room wallpaper: Showstoppers, visit clarke-clarke.com.

Dining-room wallpaper: Shantung Silhouette, Print 5005151, in Smoke, visit feschumacher.com.

Piano-room wallpaper: Echo Eclipse (gray), visit echodesign.com.

Light fixture: Vintage Crisscross Saucer by George Nelson, visit lumens.com.



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NATURAL BEAUTY

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Upholstery fabric: Josef Frank for Svenskt Tenn, visit svenskttenn.se.

Bedspreads: 10 Gruppen, visit tiogruppen.com.

Sideboard: Ikea, visit ikea.com.



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room recipe

GARDEN PARTY

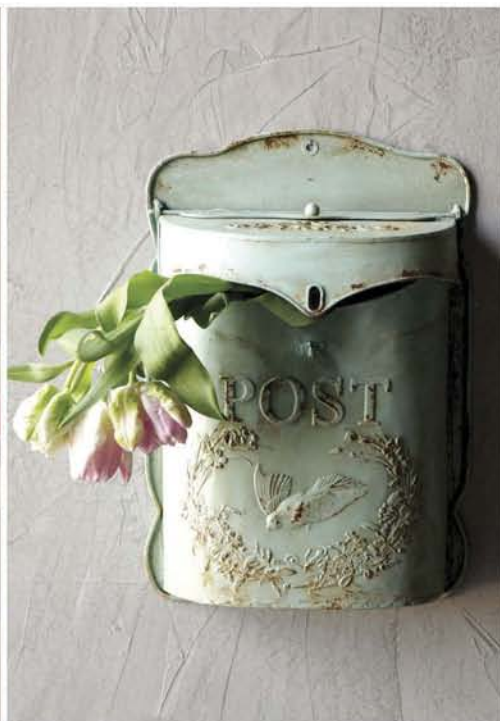
BY JICKIE TORRES
PHOTO BY JAIMEE ITAGAKI
STYLED BY HILARY BLACK AND JACQUELINE DEMONTRAVEL

Indoors or out, create a delightful event inspired by blooming colors and textures.

GARDEN PARTIES ARE GRAND FÊTES.

Not because of budget or extravagant guests, but because Mother Nature herself is the showpiece. Create that festive vibe in any space by focusing on a muse bloom. Here hydrangeas and roses combine to whimsical red-and-blue effect. Elements from peppermint patties to lacy creamware dishes help carry the theme. Have fun and be sure to layer frivolously as you add fresh flowers to everything—from cake to salad—to make it a truly special affair.





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